Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Havana radio broadcasts a speech by President Fidel Castro eulogizing Ministry of Interior soldier Rolando Perez Quintosa, who died from injuries sustained in the Tarara incident. Castro criticizes U.S. policies that "encourage illegal departures" from Cuba as "a tool to destabilize, create problems...harass and insult the revolution, and harm the people's interests." He also condemned the world's "hypocrisy" for requesting clemency for "those who once more come here to kill."

Nicaragua

BARRICADA reports that on 18 February approximately 200 members of the Sandinist People's Army Special Forces were deployed to the Northern Atlantic Region "to restore the situation there to normal," in the wake of an attack by "warmongering Yatama members" against a Waspan police post. Yatama has denied responsibility for the attack, asserting that the police attacked a "peaceful demonstration."

Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo told EL NUEVO DIARIO that the conflict in the Northern Atlantic Region "is really a struggle for power among Miskito leaders." Instead of working together to improve regional economic and social conditions, Lacayo said, leaders of the groups are creating conflict because of "the concept each group has of Atlantic Coast autonomy."

Argentina

Buenos Aires radio reports, "Argentina is studying the possibility of deploying warships to the Persian Gulf within the framework of a new multilateral operation to strengthen the UN embargo against Iraq."

Chile

Santiago radio reports Chile "is willing to receive former GDR leader Erich Honecker provided the Russian Government agrees to it." The report explains that the decision "does not imply granting Honecker political asylum," but is "a humanitarian gesture."

Panama

EL PANAMA AMERICA reports that Justice Minister Juan Chevalier was "offended, surprised, and frustrated" by the release of former Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator Rigoberto Paredes. Denying that the executive branch had any responsibility for Paredes' release, Chevalier said that "responsibility falls entirely and exclusively on the judicial branch" and protests should be directed to the judicial branch's leading figures to get them to order "at least some administration of justice."

International Affairs

Santo Domingo Radio and Television Network reports that the 88 member countries of the Lome Convention met in Santo Domingo on 19 February. The assembly voted to deny Cuba membership in the organization.

Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide also addressed the convention and requested "solidarity from all democratic peoples of the world in support of his return to power."

Lome Nations Meet; Cuba Denied Membership

FL1902181792 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The 88 countries represented in the Lome Convention began working today on formulas to guarantee the application of the Lome treaty. The formulation of these mechanisms will require the implementation of technical and economic assistance programs to support development in the countries benefited by the treaty.

The Dominican Republic and the other 87 beneficiary countries of the Lome Convention are preparing proposals for the application of the fourth edition of the treaty [Lome IV]. At the same time, the delegates are presenting proposals concerning democracy and development and matters associated with the condition and application of structural adjustment within the framework of Lome IV.

There will also be recommendations concerning the problems of foreign debt and AIDS. The delegates will present a new program with a cost of 50 million European Currency Units to fight the terrible disease.

The assembly, the parliamentary body of the Lome Convention, is meeting in Santo Domingo and will conclude on 21 February.

The assembly of African, Caribbean, and Pacific nations, along with the EC states, voted against Cuban membership in the Lome Convention on 19 February. In a secret ballot there were 40 votes in favor and 19 against Cuban membership, acccording to the EFE NEWS AGENCY.

Aristide Addresses Meeting

FL1902173592 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1625 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] On 19 February the constitutional president of Haiti demanded the continuation of economic sanctions against the military government in his country before the assembly of African, Caribbean and Pacific nations, which is being held in Santo Domingo. Jean-Bertrand Aristide gave a lengthy speech in which he painted a dramatic picture of the desperate situation the Haitian people have been experiencing since 30 September 1991 when his constitutional government was overthrown.

He thanked the Dominican Republic for its solidarity with the Haitian people's just cause—those were his words—refer .ng to the help the Dominicans have given the Haitians. The president of Haiti insisted upon expressing his gratitude because the Dominican Government and people, according to what he said [passage indistinct].

Before the assembly of African, Caribbean and Pacific nations joined in the Lome Convention, Aristide revealed that some 2,000 Haitian citizens have died violent deaths, the majority of them murdered, since the 30 September military coup. He also stated that up to 20,000 men and women have left the country in a forced exodus. Aristide repeatedly noted that this does not involve an economic exile, as U.S. officials have said, and insisted that a large percentage of Haitians are fleeing from persecution by the coupists and seeking refuge on foreign shores.

Referring to the military coup, Jean-Bertrand Arsitide said that 8 percent of the Haitian population has sufficient economic and other resources to sponsor the country's recurrent coups. He confirmed that the 30 September coup was encouraged, sustained, and paid for by powerful economic sectors that acted against his government.

To conclude his speech, Aristide asked that economic sanctions against the coupist regime in Port-au-Prince be continued. He also requested solidarity from all democratic peoples of the world in support of his return to power and the constitutional regime he led for seven months.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide arrived at the Dominican Concorde Hotel, site of the Lome assembly, under the tightest security measures. These same security measures are in effect at this time. The presence of heavily armed individuals, which are guaranteeing the security of the Haitian chief of state, is obvious.

Cuba

Castro Speaks at Minint Soldier's Funeral

PA1902174192 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0209 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the funeral of Ministry of Interior, Minint, soldier Rolando Perez Quintosa at the Colon Cemetery in Havana on 17 February—recorded]

[Text] Family Members, Combatants, Compatriots:

I did not want to bring a written speech as I have done on other occasions. I would rather reflect a few minutes on the importance of the event that has brought us together here. We have often gathered in this or other cemeteries. One time, if we remember, it was because of the explosion at the Cubre factory, where more than 100 workers and soldiers died as a result of criminal sabotage. Another time we came to bury a teacher murdered while carrying out his duties; or a literacy worker such as Manuel Ascunce, murdered while teaching the peasants to read and write. Another time, for example, it was because of the treacherous air attack against our bases on 15 April 1961, and we had to come and bury those who died at that time. On that occasion we certainly proclaimed the socialist nature of our revolution. We have had to meet many times to bid farewell to the bodies of compatriots who were vilely murdered in the attack on or the sabotage of the Barbadian airplane.

I am not going to mention here the times we have met to render tribute to our glorious internationalist combatants or to bury some dear comrade, because they belong to a different type of event. I am talking about the times when we have had to gather as a result of criminal, treacherous, premeditated, repulsive acts. The history of villainy and crimes of the reaction and the counterrevolution is long. We remember how the comrades who were taken prisoner during the Moncada assault on 26 July 1953 were savagely murdered, or how dozens and dozens of comrades who came over on the Granma were also murdered.

Counterrevolutionaries and reactionaries do not practice these deeds in our country alone but everywhere. Today we remember the teachers murdered while they fulfilled their noble mission to teach the people of Nicaragua. We remember how Che [Guevara] was taken prisoner after being wounded, and after giving him medical care, they killed him. We remember that while fulfilling internationalist missions, for example in Angola, soldiers who were wounded and taken prisoner, or soldiers who were taken prisoner—and there were not many—were inevitably murdered.

How different the behavior of the revolution has been in comparison, throughout its history and without exception! During the Moncada assault, the first act of war, the prisoners taken at the beginning were respected. In the Sierra Maestra, thousands of enemy soldiers were our prisoners, and not one was mistreated or murdered. Hundreds of these enemy soldiers owed their lives, hundreds of these wounded enemy soldiers owed their lives to the medical care and medicine our troops gave them. At the Bay of Pigs, we took more than 1,000 prisoners, and despite the heat, emotions, and feelings of battle, not a single one was mistreated or executed. The men showed in their self-control and calmness all the moral greatness of our revolution. Dozens of were attended and saved by our doctors in our hospitals.

I remember that I personally helped to save the life of one of those mercenaries, who was seriously ill and who we took prisoner. We immediately sent him, as quickly as possible, to the hospital where he could be saved. This is certainly not the only case we have personally seen or been part of. In Bolivia Che respected all the prisoners. He personally cared for them as their doctor if there were any wounded. While fulfilling our internationalist missions in Africa, there was not a single case of a prisoner being murdered or mistreated, or even one wounded person being abandoned.

Now, to the lengthy history of shameful deeds we must add this one that has gathered us together at this time: the repugnant murder of four combatants, four young men. The events as they occurred are fairly well known. They tried to go to the northern paradise. They tried to steal a boat, but they had the premeditated intention to kill if necessary to get the boat. Rolando was not there. There was only one border guard and one CDP [expansion unknown]. They deceived them. They began to talk with them, all with treacherous intentions. They were known by some people there because of work they had done previously in that region. They seized the moment to attack and disarm them. Rolando [Perez Quintosa] was heading that way when his unit received word that something abnormal was happening. He moved quickly and arrived with another comrade, with Yuri [Gomez Reinoso]. They arrived at the post, at the guard hut, and they found the CDP and the border guard lying down and tied up.

They began to untie them, free them, but apparently they realized that some people had arrived. The leader of the gang went over there with the AK he had taken from the border guard. It was after midnight. No one can say what visibility was like. Rolando approached them and told them to surrender. The answer was a burst of bullets from very close range. So Rolando and Yuri were wounded. Apparently they fell from the impact of the bullets. The leader of the gang went inside the guard shack and shot and killed Orosman [Duenas Valero] and Rafael [Guevara Borges] at point-blank range. He finished off the others instantly, but when he came out he realized that there was a wounded person moaning. Another member of the counterrevolutionary group went in with a pistol and shot the one who was moaning in the heart.

But Rolando saw everything. He was seriously wounded but conscious. As soon as other comrades arrived he

immediately told them what had happened. He gave them information; he gave them clues that facilitated the capture of the murderers. He told them quickly that one of them was a rapist. He was a rapist. He even gave them the name of the rapist. Thanks to this clue he gave in a final effort before going into shock, a rapid clarification of events was achieved. That is, already seriously wounded, we could say mortally wounded, his last service was to help to discover who had perpetrated these atrocious actions.

They were also common criminals, individuals who had participated in three rapes, according to what was revealed at the trial, three rapes. Of course, when they realized they were known, they murdered and finished off the comrades; not so they could leave, but so no one would identify them. Murder is repulsive. Murdering unarmed men who are tied up is simply monstrous. This gives us an idea of what our people could expect, what our young people, our students, our mothers, and our combatants could expect of the counterrevolution, the reaction, and imperialism if they succeed in imposing their designs on this land, if they succeed in crushing the heroic resistance of our people.

There is no need to say, because all of you already know it, that if these men had succeeded in escaping, in spite of their four murders and three rapes, they would have been welcomed in the United States as heroes, as they have welcomed so many others, as they welcomed the murderers who killed thousands and thousands of Cubans during the Batista tyranny. They welcomed them with all their money, all their fortunes, and with absolute impunity, as they have welcomed throughout these years so many criminals who sought refuge in the United States. There have been cases, and we know of them, in which they have hijacked boats and then thrown the crew or some of the crew overboard far from land. We know of cases in which the crew was rescued only by a miracle. We have denounced these actions, and these individuals have not received even the least reprimand for these monstrous acts.

So any criminal, any of these bandits, knows that they have a safe refuge there. If they are Haitians, they are returned to their country. If they are criminals, counterrevolutionaries [gusanos], lumpen, murderers who provide the raw material for their propaganda, then they are welcomed with open arms. Why? We do not forbid anyone to leave the country permanently except as is reasonable, if they have a serious court case pending, or if they might have sensitive national information. That is a minimum number of cases.

Why do they not grant visas for people to immigrate to the northern paradise? In recent years we have been following an even looser policy in this field. We authorize the departure and return of those who want to travel abroad or visit some country. They can leave and return, all those over age 20, as is set forth, with those very few exceptions I have mentioned. Why do they encourage illegal departures from the country? This policy clearly has been a tool to destabilize, create problems, shelter those kind of people, harass and insult the revolution, and harm our people's interests.

I dare say that never has such an intense battle been waged to save one life. I am a witness to this. A U.S. president would never have received the care Rolando received. For a U.S. president, with all the enormous wealth of that country, they would not have done what our doctors and scientists did here to save Rolando's life. Because a medical system inspired by mercantilist principles would not be capable of doing what our doctors, technicians, nurses, and scientists did to save this young man's life.

On one occasion I asked how many people were working directly on him there, and they told me there were 70 people. There were about 50 doctors and scientists fighting for Rolando's life, many of them around the clock. All the resources of science were applied, all of them, many highly technical pieces of medical equipment made and developed in our country, new medicines developed in our country. Not only the best of our science and medicine, but the best science and medicine in the world. One of our pieces of equipment could specify in four hours what the most effective antibiotic would be to fight the bacteria present, to fight the infection. With traditional procedures, that would take 50, 60, or 70 hours. The equipment was constantly there. There were other kinds of equipment of all types to help the doctors care for the patient. There was also equipment from other countries that our hospitals have, the most modern equipment and medicines.

I am going to reveal a detail to you. At a given time, the antibiotics were controlling the bacteria, controlling the infection, but the level of toxins was very high. A U.S. transnational company has developed a monoclonal antibody, a product we are not very far from making ourselves, a similar product. Our doctors asked a branch or subsidiary or whatever they call it in Europe for it, which did not violate U.S. law as we understand it, and the subsidiary answered that they could not sell that product to Cuba for a Cuban patient because it would violate the standards or principles or whatever of the embargo.

In any case, we obtained the medicine from friends who had purchased it. We supplied them with the funds to buy it; more than $20,000 were invested in that product to try to fight the toxins when the infection had already been fought. Of course, this was not a case of a single complication, but rather there were many complications, but one of the most serious was the infection. He was hit by four bullets, one of which practically made his colon burst, creating the most favorable conditions for peritonitis. He was also wounded in the lungs and in the leg, and all this produced complications for different organs—the heart, kidneys, lungs—as a result of the shock he experienced. There were also circulatory problems, healing problems, necrosis in part of the small intestine that called for surgery and more surgery,

bleeding in the stomach. He was on a ventilator and tube from the start. His life was maintained with the ventilator.

There was hope that he could be saved in spite of such adverse factors, because his spirit, we could say, contributed a lot, his capacity to resist, his strength, not only moral but physical, his youth, his 23 years. Otherwise his body would not have been able to endure that deterioration for such a long time as a result of so many complications. I remember that during one of the visits I made to that hospital, I asked if he was awake, if he was conscious, and that day he was conscious, he was awake. I was able to see him, greet him. Oth r times he was sleeping. At the end he was conscious but under heavy sedation.

He recognized me right away. He wanted to speak. At that time he did not have a tube in his mouth. He was not receiving artificial ventilation through the trachea. He wanted to tell me something, he wanted to communicate. He looked at me, but it was difficult for him to articulate the words, it was difficult to understand what he wanted to say. I can tell you that I saw him suffer terribly, because at one point sedatives and analgesics were contraindicated because of the other medicines that were being used to save his life. Therefore, his pain could not be alleviated. How he suffered!

It is easy to say 37 days, but we must see under what conditions he lived those 37 days. How much he must have remembered his son, his wife, his sister, his parents, his relatives, his comrades! What must he have been thinking? I sometimes wonder if he was able to realize the enormous interest our people showed in his health and life. What must he have been thinking? What suffering must a person in that condition have undergone, with so many transfusions, blood replacements, plasmapheresis, serum replacements, etc., etc.? Think of this, even with the hope we all had that he would be saved, a hope that was not lost for a single moment. But when according to the doctors the chances of saving him were 0.5 percent—that is, less than 1 percent—they continued to fight to save him.

They shed as many tears as his family did, as all the people did, when in the end it was not possible to obtain that goal. But truly, they as well as Rolando and his family, who did not leave there for a single minute, deserved to win. These doctors and scientists deserve our most profound gratitude on this occasion. A battle has been lost, but the war has not been lost. Our science and our medicine have not lost this struggle, nor have our people lost this war, nor has our revolution lost this war.

In general, when we bury a person we love, we tell a history of his life. I will limit myself to saying that Rolando's history is the history of our magnificent young people. It is the history of our revolution. He was a noble, good, patriotic, revolutionary, self-sacrificing, hard-working, disciplined boy. He might have been any of our young students, as has been said. He might have been any of our young people. He might have been any of our combatants. It is said that Christ was dying on the cross for 6 hours. Rolando was about 150 times those 6 hours on the cross set up by those heralds of crime and death.

The West.... [rephrases] It is also said that the West has created a civilization inspired by Christian values. Yes, that is said of the West, which has been responsible for so many wars and tragedies for humanity, so much misery and poverty in the world, so many conquests and colonies, so much underdevelopment that the earth is filled with today. But the West—which has criticized Cuba so much and carried out an enormous campaign against Cuba and the revolution because the Council of State did not show clemency concerning the sentences justly applied by the courts, and because the sentence was applied to one of them, the head of the commandos, this gave rise to a terrible campaign against our country. The Christian West did not send a single message of sympathy for the combatants who were vilely murdered by immoral people, rapists.

It did not have a single word of kindness concerning Rolando Perez Quintosa, the young man who suffered on the cross for 150 times the hours Christ suffered. Instead, they expressed sympathy for those who landed here to kill, burn, and set bombs. No one even stood up to say, as one more example of the generosity of this revolution, that the counterrevolutionary ringleader himself who sent the commando from Miami once carried out a pirate attack, was taken prisoner, seriously wounded, almost totally blind from the explosion of a grenade, and the revolution saved his life and saved his sight as much as it was possible to save it. Not a single word was said about this, as if our people had no right to defend themselves from such riffraff and such criminals.

The West makes very energetic demands and becomes infinitely indignant when citizens of its countries are victims of some terrorist act. It demands punishment and exemplary punishment then. But when the saboteurs of the Barbadian airplane committed that horrendous crime, the West did not protest. Nor did it protest when the murderers were incredibly absolved by the Venezuelan courts. There was not a single word of protest. But this time it was the people's courts, the socialist state's courts, that tried them and applied the appropriate sentences in strict compliance with the law.

All this shows how much hypocrisy there is in the world when clemency is demanded for those who once more come here to kill. Of course, I must say in fairness that some of those who opposed this or asked for clemency were also our friends, for one reason. They asked for it for a special reason, because out of personal, philosophical, or religious convictions, they are opposed to the death penalty.

Of course, those who protested most were in the United States, where the death penalty has been established in almost all states. We respect the views of those who asked for clemency for other reasons but at the same

time were capable of condemning the actions, condemning the crimes. These are people who are opposed to the aggression against Cuba and the embargo against Cuba. Since I have spoken about the West and its strange and paradoxical behavior, I should clarify that not all those who in some way asked for clemency fall into this category.

There was a student who asked me what many people were saying: Listen, why do people who commit crimes like this need someone to defend them? She did not even agree that they should have defense lawyers. Of course, a lot of people said that all had to be severely punished. I told the young woman: This is the law, and we cannot put ourselves outside the law. We must respect the law. The law establishes procedures. It establishes lawyers, and if the defendant does not have a lawyer, the government provides one for him. That is what the law establishes. Of course, we know that the law is not equal, but we cannot go outside the law. We have the duty to act in accordance with the laws.

The law was often violated or used against progressive, democratic, revolutionary people in this world. The world is full of laws that are not obeyed. Of course, we must stick to the principles we have always applied throughout the history of the revolution. We have laws, strict laws, which punish some crimes in an exemplary manner, but we must stick to the laws. But I know that that is the feeling and reaction aroused by acts like these.

Perez Quintosa and the comrades who died, the dead comrades, do not diminish us, as Hemingway said, each time a man dies, humankind is diminished. In this case, we do not feel diminished. We feel increased, multiplied, and inspired by their example. They knew how to die. Rolando and the others knew how to give up their lives courageously for the revolution and the nation. That is, they were willing to give even their lives to defend the revolution and the nation.

What can we say at this sad time of goodbye? We should simply say that all of us feel capable of doing the same thing. Eternal glory for the nation's heroes! [Crowd shouts: "Glory!"] Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we will win. [applause]

Havana Comments on U.S. Radio Broadcasts

PA2002044192 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 92

["A Cuban Issue" program with correspondent Barbara Betancourt; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpts] Since the triumph of the Cuban revolution, successive U.S. administrations have used radio transmissions for deceitful purposes. In 1960, the United States, specifically the CIA, set up a radio station in the Swan Islands, and later the Voice of America and commercial radio stations were incorporated into the aggression. [passage omitted]

Currently, 20 radio stations, including shortwave and mediumwave stations, systematically broadcast approximately 300 hours of programs to Cuba daily. The amount of hours involved in this anti-Cuban programming is almost comparable to the broadcasting on the island by the stations that compose the national radio system.

[Jorge Gomez Barata, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba] "Some of the radio stations that broadcast anti-Cuban programs are official U.S. Government projects. One such station is Radio Marti, which broadcasts 24 hours a day against Cuba on one mediumwave frequency and five shortwave frequencies."

That was Jorge Gomez Barata speaking. Gomez Barata is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and an expert on the radio aggression waged against our country.

[Gomez Barata] "Other stations are obviously controlled by U.S. intelligence services. This is the case of the so-called Radio Cayman. The rest are commercial radio stations established in southern Florida. These radio stations have antennas designed to make themselves audible in our country.

"There is a huge radio offensive being waged against us. It is beyond what we had anticipated. No one imagined that 20 radio stations would be used to serve those who promote subversion, counterrevolution, and misinformation against our country."

In addition to the permanent threat of military aggression, the economic pressure of the blockade, and diplomatic offensives at international forums to discredit the Cuban revolution, U.S. imperialism also uses radio aggression to complement its counterrevolutionary plans. U.S. imperialism is not being tightfisted with resources in this endeavor and is making every effort.

According to recent reports, Radio Miami International will soon be dedicating its own building in Miami. Radio Miami International will broadcast daily on shortwave 24 hours of propaganda from paramilitary groups that operate in that city.

This is what Gomez Barata has to say about that:

[Gomez Barata] "It looks like Radio Miami International will have an organizational role, that it will try to consolidate the radio effort against Cuba and act as some sort of home office by organizing schedules, frequencies, and circuits. The radio effort against Cuba is already large, and that is why I think that is what Radio Miami International's role will be. We could say this is a superior phase in the radio effort against Cuba."

"Radio Miami International already exists. Right now its programs are being recorded in Miami and then telephoned to New Orleans, Louisiana, or Tennessee. From there they are broadcast by 100,000-watt stations. All this will become unnecessary once the radio station is definitely established in Miami. Then exile groups, such

as Alpha-66 and Brigade 2506, will be in a better position to compete among themselves for the audience on the island.

"They have no way of establishing their alleged credibility in our country. Credibility should be supported by facts. So far we have not detected any kind of alarming behavioral symptom to indicate that the propaganda by these radio stations is having a significant impact on the people. They probably have a certain audience. People in Cuba probably do listen to such radio. But the fact that a radio is being heard does not mean that radio exerts influence. There are many reasons for listening to a radio station, including curiosity and a desire to listen to a foreign broadcast. Listening to foreign radio broadcasting is a characteristic of the Cuban audience.

"More than 300 foreign radio stations can be heard in Cuba, including the big foreign broadcast radio stations: Radio Canada, Radio France, Radio Netherlands, Voice of Israel, Voice of America, the BBC of London, Voice of South Africa. All the major foreign broadcast stations can be heard in our country. We have nothing against that. Those stations operate legally. They are not aimed against Cuba. We have nothing against them. On the contrary, we are glad our people have contact with those legitimate sources of information. The U.S. radio aggression is something else: It is illegal, based on an act of piracy."

In view of this illegal situation, Cuba has resorted to all legal resources that defend its position. Firm statements in this regard have been made by international radio broadcasting organizations. These organizations have criticized the anti-Cuban broadcasting because it is unethical and because it goes against essential objectives of international broadcasting.

Cuba has also resorted to patience, calm, and maturity. It has tried to persuade the U.S. Government that this activity is both illegal and dangerous.

[Gomez Barata] "Our patience has a limit. We have technological capabilities to operate against these stations. We prefer not to. We need quiet to dedicate our resources to building our country, to resolving the problems of the people. We have to constructively use the talent of our radio broadcasters to keep the people oriented. But if the U.S. Government does not leave us any other way out, if the increased aggression continues, then no one should expect from Cuba anything but a firm and strong response. They have experience with this. For example, when we grew tired of, when we literally became bored with Radio Marti, we jammed its mediumwave broadcast. That plant is jammed over 80 percent of Cuban territory. When we viewed TV Marti as a problem of principle, of national dignity, and decided that such violation of our country's sovereignty could not be tolerated, we jammed it. That can be done to any other radio station. Of course, it would demand of us expenditures and resources that we need for constructive priorities. However, this is a situation that does not depend on us."

Commentary on Effects of U.S. Blockade

PA1902233992 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The United States has employed every means available, with the exception of a direct military invasion, to drown the government of a country against which it has not formally declared war. The basic element of that hostile policy is the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed and enforced against the Caribbean island since 1961 which, of late, has been intensified and broadened.

Among the outstanding features of this burdensome measure is the total ban on Cuba's acquisition of food, medicine, and medical equipment from the United States. This criminal practice continues to harm the people.

When Washington blocked Cuba's access to new technologies, scientific and technical progress, and research and development financing, it was attempting to undermine the Cuban people's health.

By creating such difficulties, successive U.S. administrations have sought to foster in Cuba the proper conditions for overturning its political and socioeconomic systems.

There are many examples of the deliberate persecution of Cuban buyers of medicine, technology, and equipment, as well as efforts to thwart possible negotiations with other countries. When an epidemic of hemorrhagic dengue broke out in Cuba, local experts attempted to acquire insecticides and crop dusting equipment on the U.S. market, but the State Department prevented it. In 1959, U.S. authorities froze medical supplies and forced U.S. medical institutions to leave the country.

Those who believe these practices are part of the past should be aware that a few days ago Washington again prevented Cuba from obtaining important medication. A U.S. consortium refused to sell a vital antibiotic available at a European subsidiary for use in the treatment of guard Rolando Perez Quintosa. He was mortally wounded and later died from injuries he sustained from criminal actions by counterrevolutionaries who wanted to flee illegally to the United States.

Although the 20th century is about to end, the economic blockade remains in place and represents a permanent source of material and human harm to all Cubans.

Ciego de Avila Holds Provincial UJC Assembly

FL2002040992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Repor: by Roberto Cavada on the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] The provincial assembly of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] in Ciego de Avila concluded a few minutes ago. The now popular assembly, convened in the field, critically analyzed the work of the young people of Ciego de Avila in the prioritized programs of the revolution such as the food program and tourism. The evaluation of the last topic led to a unanimous request to increase the standards when selecting the young people who will work with tourists. In the afternoon session, the mandatory topics were the fight against crime in the province and the current status of research by young people in science and technology.

Finally, the new Ciego de Avila provincial committee was presented to the 300 delegates. It confirmed Gonzalo Herrera as first secretary. Alfredo Hondal Gonzalez gave the closing remarks. He was accompanied by Roberto Robaina; both are members of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba. At the conclusion of the youth assembly, Robaina made the following comments for the "Exclusive" program on Radio Rebelde.

[Begin Robaina recording] I congratulate the (?youth) of Ciego de Avila for their efforts and the special way in which they carried out the assembly. It was difficult because of the current conditions, but Ciego de Avila did it in the field and did it despite the conditions. Above all, they made it revolve around the lives of our heroes, such as Camilo [Cienfuegos], to mention one example. I believe that anyone who remembers this assembly will not remember it as a simple provincial assembly. It is a symbol of the heart, and anything that comes from the heart is something that undoubtedly remains with us throughout our lives. [end recording]

Those were the words of Robaina, who concluded with this description of the UJC provincial assembly: It was a special assembly. I would like to add that after the assembly, Hondal and Robaina, accompanied by other leaders from the UJC national committee, Brigadier General (William Galvez), and other provincial officials, visited the biological plants center at the Higher Agricultural Institute and the Rey Disco, a wonderful center for the young people of Ciego de Avila. I will give further information on their tour tomorrow on the "Exclusive" program.

Workers in Ciego de Avila Rebuild Transformers

FL1902220492 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2046 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Electrical workers in Ciego de Avila began the new year with the same pace that they ended 1991. In January they delivered 58 rebuilt transformers ready for use in high-voltage circuits. The plan was originally to rebuild 30 transformers by recoiling them, but with the efforts of workers and students of polytechnic schools associated with that task, they were able to surpass that number.

Transformers are worth hundreds of dollars on the international market. Once they are rebuilt in Ciego de Avila, they are used in economic services related to the food program and other social programs. In 1991, the collective delivered more than 700 new units, which made a contribution of more than $500,000. The collective is determined to deliver no less than 800 transformers in 1992.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Leaders Summit Begins 19 Feb

FL1902210592 Bridgetown CANA in English 1924 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Report by Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 19, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders opened their one-day informal summit here Wednesday to review progress on the tasks they set themselves last July and examine some new thinking on how to advance the regional integration process. The summit opened without fanfare in one of the smaller conference rooms at the sprawling conference centre in down town Kingston. There were no opening speeches. "It's straight to work," said a senior Caricom official. "There is much to be done."

However, only eight of the 13 community leaders are in Kingston—a fact that could rob the session of some of its authority. Among those who did not come to Kingston are Dominica's Eugenia Charles, St. Lucia's John Compton, Grenada's Nicholas Brathwaite, and Vere Bird of Antigua and Barbuda. Sir Lynden Pindling of the Bahamas, who was here for Tuesday's wider Caribbean summit on tourism, left early Tuesday before the opening of the Caricom inter-cessional meeting.

"That's the luck of the draw sometimes," Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley, chairman of the summit, said. "But they (the absentees) have good people representing them."

In any event, Caricom watchers point out, Antigua's octogenarian prime minister, Bird, rarely ever attends a regional conference outside his home country and Pindling, whose country is not a member of Caricom's common market arrangement, hardly plays a central role in community activities. However, Grenada's Bratwaite should have been a key personality at this meeting. He was to have updated the leaders on his efforts to promote hassle-free travel in the region. Caricom leaders gave Brathwaite responsibility for this portfolio at last June's full summit in St. Kitts.

That job will now fall on Joan Purcell, Braithwate's tourism minister. She will at least inform the leaders that Grenada no longer requires that Caricom nationals use

passports to enter the country, and that Jamaica has a single immigration line for nationals and Caricom citizens. Such easier travel should also facilitate exchanges at cultural events such as the Caribbean Festival of Arts (Carifesta) which was planned for Trinidad and Tobago this year. However, Patrick Manning, the new Trinidad and Tobago prime minister, attending his first summit, will formally tell his colleagues that his country will not be able to host the show on the scale originally planned.

Manning's predecessor, Arthur Robinson, had responsibility for advancing work on Caricom's move toward a single currency, a job the new prime minister will have to take over. However, he has in Kingston with him, William Demas, the governor of the Trindiad and Tobago Central Bank, who, in any event, is the lead technocrat on the subject.

Of the other subject areas adopted in St. Kitts, Jamaica's Manley will report on progress on plans for the establishment of a Caricom investment fund and moblising the region for international negotiations. Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte was to oversee plans for the free movement of skills in the region and Barbados' Erskine Sandiford, the movement towards a Caricom single market. The Jamaicans say they already have the outline model for the fund but with fine-tuning still to be done.

They will also report that a first round of negotiations between Caricom and Venezuela on Caracas' offer of a one-way free trade area took place in Kingston last month but could be complicated by the recent attempted coup—despite President Carlos Andres Perez's assurance that it is business as usual in Caracas.

Caricom officials say that Hoyte has made headway on the issue of the free movement of skills and that concrete ideas and reponses should begin to emerge here. Sandiford's portfolio, however, is probably the most contentious. It is one where new thinking has been spawned recently. For instance, the community is still battling to dismantle barriers to free trade, and four member states—Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia—are still to implement the Common External Tariff (CET), a key element in the move towards a single market and economy.

At the same time, technocrats at the Caricom secretariat have put on the table new proposals that would provide a multi-track approach to the integration process. Under this concept, dubbed the Caribbean Communities, countries feel which comfortable entering a full single market and economy would do so. There would also be the possibility of entering the process for free trade and functional cooperation, and a third level would allow membership in a community that only coordinates foreign policy.

This issue is not formally on the agenda of Wednesday's summit, but given its far-reaching nature it is likely to come to the attention of the leaders. "Clearly, the heads will be appraised of what is taking place in this regard although the common market council, at its meeting last week, looked at the suggestions and called for the requisite work and studies to be done on them," a secretariat official said.

Edwin Carrington Named Caricom Secretary General

FL2002021692 Bridgetown CANA in English 0149 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 19, CANA—Edwin Carrington, has been selected by Caribbean Community [Caricom] heads of government to be the next secretary general of Caricom, it was announced here Wednesday. Trinidad-born Carrington, a former secretary general of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific group of countries, will succeed Jamaican Roderick Rainford in the post August 1, this year, St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds announced after a one-day mid-sessional summit of Caricom heads.

Rainford has been the longest serving secretary general of Caricom, heading the Georgetown-based secretariat since September 1983. Carrington, 53, was recommended by a search committee established to identify a candidate for the post.

Haiti

MDEH Asks Honorat's Government To Resign

FL1902202892 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Lawyer Jean-Jacques Honorat's government has failed in every respect, according to Mr. Leonel Monpoint Mondestin, president of the Movement for the Economic Development of Haiti [MDEH]. MDEH requests the support of all forces in the country in demanding the government's resignation. MDEH believes that the government has done nothing to reform the public administration, whereas the ministerial cabinet has favored one group of people for four months. [passage omitted]

We note that this is the first organization that has asked for the provisional government's resignation since it took office in early October.

Mondestin Denies Responsibility for Statement

FL1902201692 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] In a declaration made on 18 February from the Dominican Republic, Senator Rony Mondestin denied responsibility for a statement he made on 11 February before the Senate Arbitration Committee, which met with the Army General Staff and General Cedras. Mondestin said the statement was from Committee President Senator Julio Larosiliere's report. We invite you to listen to Senator Mondestin.

[Begin Mondestin recording] General Raoul Cedras published a letter he wrote to the president of the Senate

Arbitration Committee in the 15 to 17 February issue of LE MATIN. According to what I read in that letter, the general has allegedly reacted to something he found in a bulletin from the Prime Minister's Office. In the 12 February issue of that bulletin, the press service of the Prime Minister's Office reported that I said the Haitian Army favors a solution based on elections.

I, Rony Mondestin, senator of the Republic, elected by the Northern Department of Haiti, was the reporter of the committee; that is, the Arbitration Committee. That means my role is to read what the committee asks me to read. Thus on 11 February it was not my personal opinion, it was not my own political opinion, nor was it my own dangerous deduction that I presented before the Assembly. I was reading for the Assembly the committee report that was written by the committee president. The press has several copies of that report. All people and all institutions that would like a copy can call the secretary of the committee president and they will be given a copy.

It should be noted that Gen. Cedras was very generous when he said in his letter: Words attributed to Sen. Mondestin. Actually, these were the only words attributed to Sen.Mondestin. Only those who are boycotting the negotiation effort are interested in divisions, confusions, and the deterioration of the situation in Haiti.

Having said that, none of the other points in Gen. Cedras' letter concern me, Rony Mondestin, senator of the Republic. Thank you. [end recording]

Costa Rica

Statistics Demonstrate Cost of Living Increase

PA1902155592 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 9 Feb 92 p 6A

[Article by Patricia Leiton]

[Text] One out of three Costa Rican families does not receive the necessary income to cover the cost of the family basket, according to statistics from the National Directorate of Statistics and Census. According to Survey No. 33 conducted by that government agency, 273,723 families in Costa Rica have a monthly income below 22,825 colones.

According to December 1991 statistics, each family requires a monthly income of 25,506 colones to afford 68 staple products and basic services. The family basket includes staple products, rent, utilities, and basic clothing for a family of four to five members in the metropolitan area. Families in rural areas must spend more than 25,506 colones because prices are higher there due to transportation costs. On the date the survey was conducted—July 1991—each family spent 23,362 colones for the family basket.

Although government authorities have not disclosed the January statistics, due to an increase in prices during the past few days, each family must spend 26,000 colones to meet its basic needs.

From the first week of January to the first week of February, the price of Victoria sugar increased from 60 to 74.75 colones per kilo, according to the Pali Supermarket. During the same period, one kilo of black beans increased from 69.50 colones to 79.75 colones; Dorado coffee (500 grams) from 107 to 115.75; and one kilo of Nacarina wheat flour from 79.50 to 85.50 colones. Meanwhile, rice producers asked the Economy Ministry last week to authorize an increase of 10.50 colones for one kilo of rice.

On 1 February, Rodolfo Prearo, general manager of Inversiones Italianas, S.A., said that according to unofficial reports there will be another increase in the price of wheat by mid-February. We were not able to contact Constantino Gonzaledz, executive president of the National Production Council, the only authorized person for information on the increase in the price of beans and wheat planned for 1992.

According to Gerardo Jimenez Porras, an economic policy expert, the government's excessive spending is one of the causes for the escalation of prices and the deterioration of the standard of living of Costa Ricans. For example, when the Executive Branch spends money for awards, pensions, salaries, among other things; people receive more income and spend more; however, since there is no increase in production, prices increase.

Jimenez added: "A possible reason for the price hike is an increase in costs or structural aspects related to the exchange rate, interest rates, and nominal salaries." He said that when interest rates go up, they could increase costs in business enterprises, but they could also result in a reduction of prices.

"If the cost of money is high, people will not be encouraged to request credit, and those who have money will prefer to save it. This reduces the demand for goods and inflationary pressures," Jimenez explained.

He added that another aspect that must be considered is consumer expectations. When the public believes the price of some articles will increase, people start buying those articles, which affects their value. To eliminate speculation, the government suspended the authorization to increase prices of regulated products in 1991.

On 23 October 1991, Economy Minister Gonzalo Fajardo said that new price hikes would have to wait until 1993 to avoid raising the inflation rate for that year. This measure was widely criticized by some economic groups. One of those groups was the National Chamber of Milk Producers headed by Gonzalo Cubero, who described it as "a suicidal economic policy," because it discourages production.

Meanwhile, National Liberation Party Deputy Federico Vargas, a former finance minister, said that it is difficult to predict how prices will behave this year. "We still do not know how the foreign exchange market will react to the liberalization measures announced by the Central Bank," he noted. He said that, in his opinion, the sustained increase in the general price level will be less in 1992 than in 1991.

El Salvador

Opposition Opposes National Reconstruction Plan

PA1802164392 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] On 17 February, the Democratic Convergence Party [CD] accused the government of trying to avoid the social economic aspects of the peace agreements by unilaterally implementing its National Reconstruction Plan.

According to Deputy Ruben Zamora, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and the other sectors in the country should have been consulted on the plan. The CD accused the government of disregarding the participative spirit of the peace agreements, especially on social economic issues.

[Zamora] "The meaning and the spirit of the accords call for an agreement among all Salvadorans and the participation of all sectors. We have already begun to see certain signals that go against that spirit."

[Reporter] To state an example, Ruben Zamora said that the FMLN and other political forces should have been consulted on the Reconstruction Plan, which has not occurred up to now.

[Zamora] "For the National Reconstruction Plan to work, as the agreements state, it must reflect the collective will of the people. The government disregards this and seeks to make the National Reconstruction Plan a strictly governmental issue."

[Reporter] Ruben Zamora also said that the government intends to continue with its policy of passing on the high cost of public services to the poorest segments of the population. He also referred to the closure of the ADOC factory as a serious affront to the freedom of association.

[Zamora] "It is absolutely indispensable that the workers right to have their own organization be respected and recognized. It is also absolutely necessary for the unions to seek true representation of the company workers, and not to impose their organizations from the top down. It is totally essential for the Labor Ministry to become a true arbitrator between the parts and not, as in this case, an instrument of management, for the national reconciliation atmosphere to prosper."

[Reporter] This makes the CD the first political organization to express publicly its concern for the noncompliance with the spirit of the agreements on specific issues of the negotiation.

Transition to National Civilian Police Discussed

PA2002010592 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] A few days before we finally hear the great news that the despised National Guard and Treasury Police are gone, rightist sectors have intensified their campaign to prevent it from happening. This campaign is trying to create the uncertainty that the population will be totally unprotected and at the mercy of criminals if these ill-fated corps disappear on 2 March, as stipulated in the schedule for the implementation of the agreements.

Vice President Francisco Merino is one of the campaign's promoters. He never agreed with the negotiation process or its results, and now he is unsuccessfully trying to block it. Vice President Merino and the others who are promoting this campaign are powerless and desperate because they know the disappearance of the National Guard and Treasury Police will end the killings they resorted to because they were unable to contribute ideas for understanding and national harmony.

It is true that the crime situation in various parts of the country is very serious and must be dealt with. But the pertinent authorities never fought against crime; on the contrary, military forces promoted it.

It is untrue that citizens will be unprotected during the transition to the new National Civilian Police. During the transition period, the National Police, under UN verification and control, will guarantee public safety in the main cities and in places that are not under Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front control.

Many criminals use weapons officially assigned to the Army to carry out their actions, and many of them come from civil defense groups and from alleged security corps. If we want to fight crime, the first steps we must take are to guarantee that the members of the Armed Forces remain in their barracks, to ensure that paramilitary groups are disarmed, and to implement an effective civilian disarmament campaign.

Honduras

General Views Elimination of Commander Position

PA2002015492 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 19 Feb 92 p3

[Report by Armando Villanueva]

[Text] Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, Armed Forces general commander, stated on 18 February that it is "absolutely false" that the Senior Council of the Armed Forces (COSUFFAA) met at the beginning of February to decide whether to eliminate COSUFFAA and the post he occupies.

The media reported that Congress is ready to discuss a draft bill calling for the elimination of the post of military commander and the elimination of COSUFFAA in favor of a "Defense Council." It was reported on 18 February that approximately 62 COSUFFAA members met in the past few days and decided to eliminate the organization.

According to the same newspaper report, the "Defense Council" would be composed of the same generals that have been recently promoted within the COSUFFAA ranks, that is, the commander in chief, the four Armed Forces commanders, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the inspector general.

These posts are presently being occupied by Div. Gen. Luis Alonso Discua Elvir (general commander); Brigadier General Lazaro Melanio Avila Soleno (chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff); and Brigadier General Oscar Filander Armijo Ucles, inspector general of the Armed Forces.

The four branches of the Armed Forces are directed by Brigade Generals Reinaldo Andino Flores (Naval), Guillermo Paredes Hernandez (Police), Hector Castro Cabus (Air Force), and Jose de Jesus Banegas Medina (Army).

On 18 February, Discua Elvir told this newspaper that rumors pertaining to this matter are "absolutely false."

He added that they correspond to a speculation campaign detrimental to the internal stability of the Armed Forces.

The five-star general confirmed the existence of commissions within COSUFFAA that are in charge of preparing for the high command various reports on the internal structure of the Armed Forces, to be analyzed and taken into consideration according to their content.

The internal analysis includes looking into the possibility of eliminating the post of general commander, but no decision on this matter has been made yet, since everything is still in the stage of analysis, as Discua Elvir admitted at the beginning of last week.

In statements on 18 February, Discua Elvir explained that the Armed Forces is an institution composed of many officers, and together they will decide what is more suitable for the future of the military institution.

With regard to COFUSSAA—an organization composed of 62 officers including generals, colonels, and lieutenant colonels—Discua Elvir said it has not met yet. He added that it will not do so until the second week of March. Discua Elvir stated that reports on the reduction of COFUSSAA are false.

Regarding the elimination of the post of general commander and the possibility that the defense minister might assume those functions, Discua Elvir admitted some days ago that there was such a proposal.

The attitude of the Armed Forces corresponds to the changes that have taken the world by surprise in the past few years. Central America has not lagged behind with regard to those changes.

In this way, the Salvadoran Armed Forces Salvador is getting ready to reduce its troops from 63,000 to 31,000 men; Nicaragua did the same last year.

COFUSSAA is the Armed Forces organization in charge of deliberations. It has the same command structure as Congress, wherein decisions are made by an absolute majority.

Nicaragua

Government Sends Special Forces to Waspan

PA2002021292 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Feb 92 pp 1, 10

[Report by Gretta Paiz]

[Text] Approximately 200 members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] Special Forces were transferred to the Northern Atlantic Region on 18 February to restore the situation there to normal, EPS sources told BARRICADA. The sources added that the troop transfer from several EPS units is being led by General Command officers to guarantee normalcy in Waspan and Puerto Cabezas.

The same sources added that the Waspan Police post was attacked and seized by warmongering Yatama [organization of members of the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indian tribes and of Creole groups] members, who captured 10 EPS members, including two officers: Martin Palacios and someone identified as Rosales.

Former Yatama fighters denied on 18 February that they were responsible for the events, adding that the police were responsible because they attacked a peaceful demonstration.

The autonomous North Atlantic authorities categorically denied this and reasserted that the attack occurred for political reasons and on instructions from INDERA [Nicaraguan Institute for the Development of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast] Minister Brooklyn Rivera.

The INDERA said "The latest conflicts have been provoked by the degree of poverty and desperation prevailing among the population"—mostly comprised of repatriated, relocated, demobilized, and unemployed people.

Monsignor Pablo Schlaeffer, the Catholic Church's highest representative on the Atlantic Coast, said a lot of tension prevails among the people of Waspan and Puerto Cabezas. He rejected the use of weapons to solve problems.

He said: "We must be reasonable and reject using force and weapons to achieve harmony among the different parties."

Presidency Minister on Conflict

PA2002033292 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Feb 92 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said the strong tension in the autonomous North Atlantic Region, RAAN, where a large, armed Yatama [organization of members of the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians tribes and of Creole groups] group forcefully occupied Waspan, killing two policemen, is really a struggle for power among Miskito leaders.

Lacayo said the conflicts in the RAAN are caused by the fact that each of the groups involved has his own interpretation of the Autonomy Law. He added that while "some believe the central government has no jurisdiction over the Atlantic Coast through the Nicaraguan Institute for the Development of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast, others believe the contrary."

According to Lacayo, the leaders are creating conflict among the Miskitos, who are brothers of the same race, instead of working together to improve regional economic and social conditions. "All this is because of the concept each group has of Atlantic Coast autonomy," he stressed. [passage omitted]

Ramirez Mercado Comments on 'Conflict' in FSLN

PA2002040092 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Feb 92 p 10

[Report by Marcio Vargas on an interview with Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, National Directorate at the National Assembly in San Salvador on 18 February]

[Text] Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the FSLN National Directorate, on 18 February emphatically denied reports related to "any type" of conflict within the Sandinist leadership. He pointed out that the recently reported debate between party militants is specific evidence of this party's "stability."

Questioned with respect to party unity within the Sandinist directorate, Ramirez stated it is "undisputable" because splits within the Sandinists are a "delusion." Ramirez told a group of journalists who interviewed him in the corridors of the National Assembly during the 18 February session that, "The Sandinist Front is a solid organization, and its activists depend on that solidity to express their diverse opinions."

The head of the Sandinist parliamentary faction did not acknowledge a "crisis" in the FSLN. Ramirez stated: "We would have a crisis if there were no diversity of opinion in the FSLN ... it would be a clandestine crisis."

Unity in Diversity

Insisting on the importance of discussion in the FSLN, Ramirez pointed out a debate to be held this week in Tres de Managua District. According to Ramirez, it is "a debate open to all activists and aimed at discussing the future of the Sandinist Front and the diversity of opinions."

"I believe," he added, "the debate will help us understand the perspective of unity and diversity within the FSLN."

[Vargas] The future of the Sandinist Front is not yet certain?

[Ramirez] I believe it is. The Sandinist Front is a strong party. It is Nicaragua's majority party, with a very sizable structure. It is renewing its political forces through department and municipal elections. The FSLN is constantly going through a process of renewal.

New Opposition

When questioned with respect to recent criticism by Sandinist leader Daniel Ortega of the so-called "center group" that has risen within the party's rank and file, Ramirez said the FSLN secretary general "was not referring specifically to that group" when he spoke of antidemocratic opinions.

Ramirez clarified that "Commander Ortega was referring to a very different range of situations that includes other persons within the party who deny the right of others to state their opinion."

Ramirez alluded to the FSLN's type of opposition in Nicaragua. He stated it is not a traditional opposition, since the Sandinists "have a national responsibility because of the party's clout, its active militancy, and because of the historic role we have been called on to play."

Ramirez added: "We are innovative. We are a revolutionary party, and revolutionary parties tend to implement political innovation."

Ortega, Lacayo Discuss Aeronica Case, Issues

PA2002041792 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Feb 92 pp 1, 12

[Text] FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Secretary General Daniel Ortega on 17 February told LA PRENSA he thought the individuals who blocked the international airport runway with two parked planes as a pretext for announcing their labor demands were guilty. This unprecedented incident in Nicaraguan union history was strongly condemned from the beginning by authorities and by other sectors of Nicaraguan society.

The National Workers Front [FNT], meanwhile, has said it will not resume negotiations with the government despite the release on 17 February of 30 Aeronica employees who were found innocent of charges of exposing people to terrorism.

Until late on the evening of 17 February, Ortega held talks with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, who showed the former president the airline's financial statement to demonstrate its weak financial position. At the end of the meeting, Ortega told the local media he was satisfied with the government's explanations. Hours earlier he had insisted during an appearance at a local radio station that "the government must not insist on applying the law in a radical manner." He said care should be taken so the conflict would not worsen and become a national problem.

Lacayo told reporters, "In 1992, we are not willing to tolerate criminal activities," clearly alluding to the position announced by the government at the beginning of the year, which observers have categorized as President Chamorro's first strong reaction.

The FNT insisted on calling partial work stoppages beginning 18 February to launch a campaign called "against closing down" and for salary increases.

What would appear to be a new phase of FNT strikes will begin on the morning of 18 February in the sensitive health sector. Ten doctors said that on 18 February they will stage a 24-hour work stoppage to demand payment of 800 cordobas that the Health Ministry owes each of them.

In the Aeronica case, which began the very moment the sale of 50 percent of its shares was announced, the

workers have refused to accept the government's proposal for fear of losing their jobs once TACA International Airlines, S.A. takes over its part.

The meeting on 17 February between Lacayo and Ortega lasted approximately three and a half hours. Also in attendance were People's National Corporation President Dayton Caldera, who has headed the negotiations with the Aeronica union leaders since December 1991.

Penal Attorney General Jose Antonio Fletes announced that the Public Ministry on 17 February filed a charge in court against the individuals who allegedly masterminded the airport crimes. Preliminary police investigations were not able to establish individual responsibility for each detainee. According to police records, the workers said they did not know the individuals who placed the two airplanes on the runway.

Attorney General Guillermo Vargas Sandino previously said this incident turned the Nicaraguan airport into a high-risk airport. It would seem as if the national airline has been undergoing a spell of back luck since 1981 when, under its former name LANICA, the Sandinist government declared it bankrupt. On that occasion, the FSLN's official newspaper published only a brief report on the issue and did not mention the large number of employees who were fired for supporting the formation of Aeronica.

Today, 11 years later, the airline is confronting the same situation. However, this is an administration that, according to government spokesmen, is attempting to seek a viable solution for the workers through negotiations.

Panama

President Meets With Arnulfist Party Directorate

PA1902235992 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by Vilma E. Figueroa B.]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara met with members of the Arnulfist Party National Directorate on 18 February to exchange impressions on the alleged attempts to destabilize the government a week ago. He stated, "Each citizen has to be alert to defend democracy."

The meeting was held a few minutes prior to U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's arrival in the country. It was attended by Arnulfist Party President Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, several state ministers, and other government officials. The following state ministers were present at the meeting: Public Works Minister Alfredo Arias, Health Minister Guillermo Rolla, Education Minister Marco Alarcon, and Deputy Planning Minister Bolivar Pariente. Legislator Aurelio Alba and government officials Rogelio Baruco, Napoleon Salazar, and German Vergara also attended.

The Arnulfist Party president said that the Panamanian people are prepared to defend a democratic process "for which they have paid a high price." Alarcon denied reports that the participants in the meeting discussed national security matters. He noted that the Arnulfists visited President Endara because it is important that the head of state know about the results of tours that fellow Arnulfist militants have carried out throughout the country.

Alarcon said the idea was to report to Endara, as members of the Arnulfist Party, on what Arnulfist militants are doing within their political organization to unify and strengthen the party in preparation for the 1994 elections. A press communique issued 18 February by the Presidency of the Republic refers to a resolution approved last week by the Arnulfist Party Directorate. In it, the party rejects and repudiates any action aimed at undermining the president's legitimate authority. The resolution also condemns any attack or use of force or subversion against the legitimately constituted authorities.

Chevalier 'Offended' by Paredes Release

PA1902205392 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 19 Feb 92 p 8c

[Text] Juan Chevalier, the Panamanian Government and justice minister, stated on 18 February that he was "offended, surprised, and frustrated" by the release of former Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator Rigoberto Paredes.

Chevalier denied charges that the executive branch had allegedly agreed to release Paredes. "The executive branch had absolutely nothing to do with his release. This responsibility falls entirely and exclusively on the judicial branch," Minister Chevalier asserted.

Regarding charges by Christian Democratic Party members, Chevalier said one of its leaders, Ivan Romero, was "a scoundrel" because he knew perfectly well that the executive branch "could do nothing about this case."

The government and justice minister added: "It is high time that people demand that justice be administered by the appropriate branch." According to Chevalier, "The people's protest should be directed toward the judicial branch's leading figures to get them to order at least some administration of justice."

Argentina

Possible Participation in Gulf Blockade Studied

PY1902170692 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Argentine ships may return to the Persian Gulf to join a new blockade against Iraq at the request of the United States. Argentina is studying the possibility of deploying warships to the Persian Gulf within the framework of a new multilateral operation to strengthen the UN embargo against Iraq.

Defense Minister Antonio Herman Gonzalez asserted that eventual Argentine participation in a new blockade against Iraq will only take place within the framework of the UN resolution issued before the Gulf war. The minister said that this does not at all mean that Argentina is pursuing a policy to overthrow Saddam Husayn because, otherwise, it could be considered interference in the internal problems of a nation.

Plans To Send Battalion to Yugoslavia Reported

PY2002022892 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2205 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Feb (NA)—Argentina will send an infantry battalion to Yugoslavia. It will consist of 900 men, five military observers, eight military policemen, 30 national border police, and 14 combat vehicles. The Argentine battalion will join the UN peacekeeping forces in this region.

This was officially confirmed today by the Foreign Ministry "in response to a request made by the UN secretary general to help in peacekeeping operations in Yugoslavia."

Through a communique, the Foreign Ministry reports that Argentina is currently taking part in peacekeeping forces in the Middle East, Angola, Iraq-Kuwait, Western Sahara, Central America, and Cambodia.

The Foreign Ministry communique adds: "These efforts by Argentina are in line with major changes affecting the international scenario, and they help to strengthen the UN role in the construction of a new international order."

Bolivia

Paz Reiterates Trust in Information Minister

PY1802193492 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Excerpt] President Jaime Paz Zamora has reiterated his trust in Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena, who was the object of harsh criticism by some opposition members. Minister of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez explained that Minister Rueda, as well as other cabinet members, expressed their point of view about the civic mobilization that took place on 14 February in La Paz, and that the chief of state, after learning Rueda's position, decided to reassert his trust in him.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The information minister at no time meant to offend the people of La Paz or its institutions. Last week he simply expressed his concern that the civic mobilization of 14 February could be used for political purposes through illegal measures such as the blocking of streets. The president of the Republic today heard the information minister's position in detail, and he reiterated his trust in him as head of a ministry that is sensitive and sometimes controversial. That is all I wanted to say today. [passage omitted] [end recording]

University Students Stage Protest in La Paz

PY1902203192 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Following a decision at nine universities, students and administrative personnel today staged a protest march nationwide to demand a better budget. Students marched along major streets in La Paz causing traffic jams and inconveniencing the people in general. Special security groups prevented the students from entering the Murillo Square.

The students showed a condemnable and disrespectful attitude toward private and state-owned property considering the damage caused to institutions such as the Information Ministry, where the front doors were destroyed.

Brazil

U.S. Defense Secretary Arrival Reported

PY1902201592 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Excerpts] How to operate in the struggle against drug trafficking. This is U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's proposal. He arrived in Brazil yesterday and this morning began a number of meetings with the military ministers. [passage omitted]

In a meeting with General Antonio da Rocha Veneu, the EMFA [Armed Forces General Staff] chief, the U.S. defense secretary talked about how the United States is willing to cooperate in the struggle against drug trafficking. He also talked about cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

[Begin Rocha recording, in progress] ... and they would also like us to cooperate in the struggle against drug trafficking and I showed him that we are doing this, not through the Armed Forces, but through the federal police. [end recording]

Bank of Iraq Vice President Seriously Wounded

PY1902165492 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] (Baq Jou Abe), vice president of the Bank of Iraq, 57, has been shot at the front gate of his house in Lagoa District in southern Rio de Janeiro. The banker was leaving his house when he was stopped by two men who wanted to take his car. (Baq) resisted and was shot. He was hospitalized and is in serious condition.

Ministers Agree on Program To Stabilize Economy

PY1902135892 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira and Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana have agreed on a joint work program to stabilize the economy, obtain investments, and improve the Brazilian infrastructure.

According to Minister Marques Moreira, the utility rates of every public company will be analyzed separately, according to each one's needs within the framework of the stabilization plan. Marques Moreira says the program will analyze the cost, investments, debts, prices, and rates of each public company.

[Begin Marques Moreira recording, in progress] ...decisions will be made based on a joint evaluation of the information obtained and on the needs and opportunities; that is, on the needs of the stabilization plan and on the financial health of these companies. [end recording]

Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana said the economy ministry worked hard last year to rehabilitate the public sector so the economic stabilization plan would yield positive effects with respect to the public companies.

[Begin Santana recording] As the minister said, the work of the two ministries will closely follow up each other because we know the stabilization plan is essential and everyone must make an effort to make this plan successful. [end recording]

Finally, Minister Santana categorically denied any disagreement between himself and Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira.

Democratic Mobilization Party Leader Reelected

PY1902211792 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The casting of votes for the election of the new PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] bloc leader [in the Chamber of Deputies] has just ended. Deputy Genebaldo Correia has retained the leadership.

Chile

Government To Receive Honecker If Russia Agrees

PY2002105292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1015 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Chilean Ambassador in Bonn Carlos Huneeus has reported that Chile is willing to receive former GDR leader Erich Honecker provided the Russian Government agrees to it. The Chilean diplomat met with State Secretary Dieter Kastrup to convey to him the Chilean Government's decision to allow Honecker to enter Chile.

The German Government rejected this decision and reiterated Germany's petition that Moscow extradite Honecker, who is currently staying at the Chilean Embassy in Moscow.

Huneeus told the German state secretary that Honecker's health has deteriorated considerably and a humanitarian solution must be found. He added that the embassy, of course, is unable to provide the necessary medical care. Huneeus said Chile is not passing judgment on the claims that German courts may have against Honecker. He stressed that Chile is making a humanitarian gesture, which does not imply granting Honecker political asylum because that would not be appropriate.

The German state secretary reiterated that his country is not willing to allow Honecker to be taken out of Russia unless it is to bring him to Germany, but it does not oppose Honecker receiving medical care at a Moscow hospital.

Honecker's lawyer Friedrich Wolf explained that the Russian Government can authorize Honecker to leave for Chile even if he has no valid passport. He added: All the Russian Government has to say is that Honecker does not have a residence permit because he entered the Soviet Union, not Russia.

Japan Grants Loan for Infrastructure Projects

PY1902133092 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Speaker identified by caption]

[Text] Japan has granted Chile a $192 million loan to finance infrastructure projects.

[Begin acting Finance Minister Jose Pablo Arellano recording] These resources are the first of their kind granted by the Japanese Government to Chile through OFS [expansion unknown], which finances Japanese economic cooperation with developing countries. These resources will be used over the next seven years primarily to finance three infrastructure projects. [end recording]

The resources will finance an irrigation project designed to increase agriculture production in the Eighth Region.

Moreover, sewage and drinking water services in Valparaiso will be improved and railway services restored.

It should be pointed out that the terms of payment are very convenient for Chile. The loan will be returned over a 25 year period, which will begin in seven years.

World Environmental Research Agreement Signed

PY1902215392 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Chilectra-Metropolitana [Chilean Electric Company, Inc Metropolitan Office] will finance the Chilean share of an international environmental research program.

An agreement was signed yesterday in Santiago by Chilectra-Metropolitana General Manager (Marcos Sibederg) and representatives of the Gallup-Chile enterprise.

The agreement foresees a research program in which 56 countries of the six continents will participate. It is sponsored by the World Bank and the World Fund for Nature. This project seeks to set the ground rules for a strategic plan that will promote economic growth based on a broad understanding of the environment.

The opinions, experiences, and customs of the inhabitants of the world will be considered. The research will be based on polls in every country.

The results will be submitted to the Environment and Development Conference to be held in Brazil next June.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Leaves for Mercosur Presidents Summit

PY2002122292 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1055 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Technicians are completing a final check of a Paraguayan Airlines [LAP] plane that, in a few moments, will take President Andres Rodriguez and his entourage to Canoas Military Airport in Rio Grande do Sul State. There, the Rio Grande do Sul governor will officially welcome President Rodriguez. The president will then take a helicopter to Canela, where he will be welcomed by Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek.

The Canelas meeting is important because discussions will be held on programs and plans that will help protect natural and water resources, which will ensure a healthy environment for men and social conditions allowing them to achieve an optimal standard of living. These goals represent UN concern over the preservation of natural resources, soil management, and above all, the obtainment of appropriate financial resources to ensure the implementation of all programs being discussed by the governments of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries, particularly the developing countries.

The developed countries have enough resources and technical programs and equipment to help us comply with the terms of programs that are aimed at preserving natural resources and environmental conditions in our respective countries. These concerns will also be the main topics of discussion by all presidents during Eco-92 [UN Conference on Environment and Development], which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June. This includes: Water resources and the details on their handling, and pollution caused by large industries and companies and ways to prevent this pollution.

The LAP plane is now heading toward the main airstrip to begin its trip to the presidential summit in Canela, Rio Grande do Sul State.

Workers' Participation in Profit-Sharing Opposed

PY2002021392 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Feb 92 p 6

[Text] After meeting with President Andres Rodriguez yesterday, Justice and Labor Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche said the government is against the new constitution establishing workers' participation in company benefits, and calls on the Constituent Assembly members not to approve a constitution based on regulations that may lead the country to chaos and anarchy due to "cheap populism."

Estigarribia said the executive branch is studying this issue and that "it is not only a government concern but a general concern." He said because the Constituent Assembly is sovereign, all that can be done is to ask Assembly members to remain calm. He added: "This is why we call on the Assembly members to consider the issue and act calmly."

Estigarribia indicated that the government cannot make a judgement on the final decision because the proposals are only being approved by the sub-committees. He said: "What we are doing is opening an umbrella, because we are indeed alarmed by the decisions made on very important aspects affecting the life of the country."

He criticized the ideas based on regulations prevailing in the Assembly, because the Assembly members are giving constitutional rank to issues that must be established in a law, such as the concrete case of workers' participation in company benefits.

Estigarribia added: "This idea must emerge from a consensus between the company and the workers for their participation in the company's benefits."

Asked if the article on this issue had political connotations, Estigarribia said: "I believe so: it is cheap populism. It is a distorted image of what the workers' participation should be. Therefore, they should think twice."

He said that if unrelated situations are tied to the constitution it might mean that a new constitution will have to be created in the future. He mentioned as an

example "other friendly countries" which "are having problems with their constitution based on regulations."

He said: "What I want to do is urge Assembly members to think, because as a lawyer I believe that the constitution should only cover general principles—and I also believe that the majority agree with me—and that the regulating aspects of those principles should be left to the laws. Otherwise, we run the risk of having a constitution for an ungovernable country."

Estigarribia also said that the Constituent Assembly members who approved the benefit for workers acted "on their emotions and on their desire to express their feelings, and made their contribution to their constituents."

Estigarribia asked: "Why should we approve regulations in the constitution, which upon reflection may be ineffective? If they are part of the constitution we have no other choice but to either enforce it or degenerate into anarchy and chaos.

As an example, he cited the U.S. Constitution, which has seven articles and 22 amendments, and is already 200 years old. He said: "If we want to see ourselves physically and juridically in the constitution we must have a constitution with 1,000 articles which will make us ungovernable." [sentence as published]

In addition to Minister Estigarribia's comments, businessmen and industrialists categorically rejected the proposal of the Constituent Assembly Sub-Committee No. 2, which wants to include in the constitution the workers' right to participate in the company's benefits.

The businessmen who labeled this issue "political demagogy" also said it is quite absurd to pretend to give workers who did not provide any capital the right to participate in profit-sharing. This case already has been taken to President Rodriguez, and Minister Estigarribia's comments in government house show the government's concern with this issue.

Presidential Candidate Poll Results Reported

PY1902204192 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 19 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] Domingo Laino of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] is the most popular presidential candidate in rural areas according to a poll conducted at the request of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

The poll showed that Laino received 26.6 percent of the rural votes followed by President Andres Rodriguez (who has said that he will not seek reelection) with 18.8 percent.

The other leaders on the list are Luis Maria Argana (ANR) [National Republican Association] with 8.9 percent; Carlos Filizzola (APT) [Asuncion For All Movement] with 7.8 percent; Juan Ernesto Villamayor (ANR) with 4.9 percent; and Guillermo Caballero Vargas (National Encounter) with 4 percent.

The other popular leaders in rural areas are Angel Roberto Seifart, Orlando Machuca Vargas, Euclides Acevedo, Lino Cesar Oviedo, Waldino Ramon Lovera, Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, and Luis Alfonso Resck.

Laino also heads the list in the urban areas but with a smaller percentage than in the rural areas. He is the only one, however, who got over 20 percent in both areas.

In the urban areas Laino has 21.6 percent, Rodriguez 17.6 percent, Filizzola 11.9 percent, Caballero Vargas 9.9 percent, and Argana and Villamayor both with 6 percent. This poll was conducted between 22 December 1991 and mid January 1992 and the figures were only released recently. The poll was carried out in various parts of the country.

Peru

Bomb Destroys Residence, Injures Brena Mayor

PA1902195192 Lima Radio Programs del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Excerpts] On 19 February, presumed subversives blew up Brena Mayor Rolando Velasco's vehicle, which was parked in front of his residence. The attack occurred early on 19 February. Here is a report by Rocio Vicente:

[Begin recording] [Vicente] The mayor's Toyota was completely destroyed due to the force of the explosion. Members of [word indistinct] are already here; policemen are guarding the area. The mayor's residence was also completely destroyed; the front door was knocked out. [passage omitted] [end recording]

That was a report filed this morning right after the attack. We will now talk to Alderman Alberto Silva due to the insistent rumors about the mayor's condition. What is the actual status of the mayor? We heard that he sustained major injuries.

[Silva] I wish to voice my gratitude for the expressions of support from neighborhood organizations and others. To calm the people I will say that the mayor came out of his second operation at noon today. Both operations were on his right leg. His shinbone was splintered. The first operation was at 0950, and he left the second surgery at noontime and is now in the intensive care unit. His situation is stable. [passage omitted]

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1623 GMT on 19 February, in a similar report, adds: "According to police sources, a Technical Police major was killed on 19 February in Lima presumably by subversive commando units hours after the Brena mayor was attacked with a bomb. In addition, Detective Droguer Chavez was killed at his residence in Cantogrande, east of Lima."]

Fujimori Discusses Agriculture Law, UK Aid

PY1902193092 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish
9 Feb 92 p A3

[Excerpts] President Alberto Fujimori yesterday announced that the agricultural emergency law will not be implemented because there are no funds to implement it. He said this law is not applicable and, as it cannot be abolished, it will not be implemented, because the executive branch has no way of financing it.

Upon returning from the United Kingdom, the president also ruled out the possibility of calling a third special legislative session to continue discussions on this law. On this, he said the legislative branch has the power to convene itself.

Visibly annoyed, Fujimori noted that the implementation of this law will cause the treasury to spend 4 percent of the 1992 budget.

Fujimori talked to journalists at Jorge Chavez International Airport shortly after returning from the United Kingdom on an unofficial four-day visit. During his visit, he met with top government officials, including Prime Minister John Major.

The chief of state was met at the airport by the entire cabinet. Prominent was the presence of the first vice president of the Republic, Maximo San Roman, and Supreme Court President Luis Portugal. Before beginning a news conference in the VIP room at the airport's mezzanine [preceding word in English], the chief executive ordered his security personnel to leave. [passage omitted]

Withdrawl From the Universities

President Fujimori also announced that he will order the Armed Forces to withdraw from the Greater University of San Marcos, giving a 10-day deadline to see if the rector's authority is respected and the university exercises its autonomy. "If, after this deadline, there is disorder again and graffiti is painted again on the walls, I will immediately order the Armed Forces to return, and I will visit the university to implement order and discipline, which must prevail in this center of higher studies."

British Support

Concerning the British Government's support, the chief of state confirmed the receipt of a $6 million loan for various social development programs in the education and health industries, as well as the establishment of an agreement to train personnel in the struggle against terrorism, a field in which the British have much experience. Fujimori reported that British Foreign Minister [as published] Neil Kinnock will visit Peru during the first half of 1992 in order to strengthen relations between the two countries and maintain cooperation, which will be of great benefit, taking into account that the United Kingdom will lead the EEC.

President Fujimori described as "positive" his visit to the United Kingdom, where he participated in a conference on ecology sponsored by the British association Kew Gardens. At the conference, he explained the Peruvian stand on the protection of the ecologic patrimony in the Peruvian Amazon area and called for international efforts in the struggle against drug trafficking.

Congress Approves National Defense System Bill

PY1902180492 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish
8 Feb 92 p A4

[Excerpts] The National Defense System [Sistema de Defensa Nacional] (SDN) organization chart, as outlined in the bill approved by Congress, is substantially different from DL [Legislative Decree] 743.

First, it must be pointed out that the SDN defines the command structure and the way in which national pacification actions will be implemented. ¡passage omitted]

The document agreed on by the political parties and approved by the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate maintains the chief of state as SDN president, but establishes that the National Defense Secretariat [Secretaria de Defensa Nacional] will be in charge of planning actions, the National Defense Council [Consejo de la Defensa Nacional] will make the decisions, and the National Pacification Unified Command [Comando Unificado de Pacificacion Nacional] (CUPN) will assume a leadership role.

The CUPN will be headed by the chief executive and will include the Pacification Secretariat [Secretaria de Pacificacion], which is subordinate to the prime minister's office; the vice ministerial pacification offices; and the public agencies pacification offices.

The Regional Pacification Unified Command [Comando Unificado de Pacificacion Regional], with the participation of the regional prefect, the regional assembly president, and the military chief of the zone, will be under the CUPN.

They [not further specified] will establish the mechanisms to implement the countersubversive strategy, coordinating the development projects required by the respective regions. This is the greatest difference between the proposals made by the executive branch and the political parties. While the participation of citizens was negligible in the executive branch's proposal, the political parties' proposal provides mechanisms for making the participation of citizens truly effective.

Terrorist Activities in Prisons Examined

PY1902171792 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
8 Feb 92 p 13, 15

[By "LA REPUBLICA Investigative Unit"]

[Text] Official figures issued by the National Institute of Prisons [Inpe], indicate that the judicial branch last year ordered the release of 219 terrorists from the Miguel Castro Castro prison. This is a significant number if compared with the 160 that were legally released during 1990 and the 98 released between 1986 and 1989.

Many of those released last year are top leaders of the Shining Path and of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA], who were involved in terrorist attacks.

The Counterterrorism Division [Dircote] has reported that all of them reportedly rejoined their respective organizations having maintained contact during their period of imprisonment.

A Dircote senior official stated: "Most of them left prison without serving their sentences through certificates of good contact." He added: "We have proof that many of them rejoined the terrorist organizations."

An Inpe official said: "It is not possible to rehabilitate the terrorists jailed in Canto Grande and other prisons," adding: "They first take over their cell block , then form military organizations, and finally give daily indoctrinations. The idea that they leave the prison to start a normal life is pure fantasy."

The problems in the prisons that house terrorists was analyzed during the fourth course on political war and state security sponsored by the National Police in November 1990. A report entitled "Subversive Activities in Social Rehabilitation Centers" focused on the role that terrorist organizations have assigned to prisons.

The reports states that Shining Path terrorists have formed the so-called "Committee for Special Tasks in Prisons," which is known by the initials WEK [as published]. This committee coordinates actions on two fronts: a clandestine front under the Peruvian Popular Aid [SPP], and a legal front led by the Democratic Lawyers Association [AAD].

The report adds that the SPP communicates between the inmates and the party through close friends and relatives of the inmates who are members of the "Committee of Relatives of the Political Prisoners." This committee tries to achieve several tasks, including preventing the Security Police from interrupting communications between the subversive group and the inmates. The electric surveillance system at the Canto Grande prison is out of order" and the police are not equipped to closely control the terrorists."

The AAD defends those charged with terrorism and seeks ways to interpret the law for the benefit of its clients. The AAD has already filed writs of amparo and habeas corpus against the mass media, including LA REPUBLICA which was charged with having published reports on the situation inside the Castro Castro prison. It also approved a series of proposals that was submitted to the second congress of lawyers from the Lima Judicial District, insisting that the Lima Bar Association "defend" Elvia Zanabria Pacheco, Yovanka Pardave Trujillo, and Tito Valle Travezano, who are well-known terrorist leaders.

The report also says that there is an organization inside the prison which strictly controls the situation from the time a terrorist enters the prison, including the fulfillment of certain tasks and visits by relatives.

It adds: "A sort of hierarchy prevails in the prison among the intermediate commando, the rank and file members, and those arrested (beginners or sympathizers) who do not belong to any organization." "These individuals, and their families abroad, are being selected and investigated to prevent infiltration. Later they receive indoctrination and are given tasks to perform in the prison. Their relatives or friends are also forced to commit themselves to participate in party activities. This produces a mushroom effect and a series of subsequent actions."

The MRTA also has a dual-purpose organization which directs activities in prisons and defends their arrested militants. Its name is not known.

The document adds: "Subversives use prisons as operations centers from which to implement terrorist activities against society and the state through its militants outside."

The document recommends "that the state should create consistent antiterrorist legislation to counteract the 'legalistic' arguments of the lawyers who defend terrorists."

It is no secret that prisons are used by subversives to plan their operations, and there lies the danger of releasing them, particularly if their freedom is obtained in an irregular way. The case of Judith Galvan Montero or "Chata Judith" is just the latest drop in an ocean of irregularities.

Attorney Espichan Tumay, Judicial State Defense Supreme Council president, said: "I do not have an exact figure, but there are a substantial number of cases of prisoners who are incarcerated on terrorist charges only to be given their freedom, paroled, or released altogether." He added: "In some cases the criminal judge granting the benefit did not inform me of his decision and by the time we appealed the terrorist had already left prison."

At this moment there are only 26 outstanding warrants for the recapture of subversives, but the number of individuals involved in terrorism is higher.

From 1981 to January 1992 the judicial branch acquitted 943 individuals and ruled that there was not enough evidence to try another 989 cases.

During the same period the Attorney General's Office refused to press charges against 2747 individuals linked to subversion.

In sum, the Peruvian state chose not to punish 4,679 individuals arrested for terrorism over this period of 11 years.

During the same period the state obtained the conviction of only 552 individuals, that is, a mere 12 percent of all those arrested for their involvement in terrorism.

In 1991, a single judge authorized the release of 219 terrorists from the Campo Grande "maximum security prison." This is 40 percent of all the convicted terrorists from all over the country over a period of 11 years.

But that is not all.

Between 1987 and the last few days in 1992, 719 individuals involved in terrorist activities were released from the Castro Castro prison. The release of terrorists in such a rapid and incredible fashion only began during the last three years.

The judicial branch is incredibly quick to release those prisoners in jail facing terrorist charges.

The most important terrorists who were released last year are, among others:

Hilda Tulich Morales, freed on 1 February
Laura Zambrano Padilla, freed on 3 May
Renata Herr Hoffman, freed on 6 March
Sistero Garcia Torres, freed on 24 August
Edmundo Cox Beuzeville, freed on 1 November
Jorge Tulich Morales, freed on 27 December

The Tulich Morales family belong to the Shining Path. Jorge, the eldest son, and his sister Hilda were charged with being members of "Popular Help." Jose Armando, Antonio Angel, and Juan Francisco are the other brothers: the first was in charge of the "popular schools," the second directed the "Eastern Zone" of the "Lima Metropolitan Committee," and the third was arrested near the Energy Ministry building while carrying dynamite. Jose and Antonio died in El Fronton during a rebellion on 19 June 1986.

At the time she was arrested, Laura Zambrano Padilla, known as "Comrade Meche," was a high-ranking member of the "Lima Metropolitan Committee" and, consequently, in the Shining Path's "Central Committee." She was released on bail because the "Technical Evaluation Commission" of the Inpe, which considered her case, ruled that she "could rejoin society." When she was freed, she promised to devote her life to "teaching children." She apparently left the country.

Renata Herr was the lover of Shining Path leader Antonio Diaz Martinez, with whom she reportedly had a baby. Herr was sentenced on terrorist charges but had special treatment—along with Laura Zambrano—at the women's cell block in Canto Grande.

Sistero Garcia Torres, aka "Comrade Ricardo", upon his release reassumed his post of chief of the "Northeastern Guerrilla Front" of the MRTA, from which he was dismissed because of political discrepancies. He now heads his own armed group.

Edmundo Cox Beuzeville was charged with heading the Shining Path's "Regional Committee of the South." He held a major position at the prison. He participated in a frustrated attempt to provoke a massacre in the prison through an attack on the relatives of common criminals. He also was said to have maintained "good conduct" while in prison.

Thus far in 1992, 32 terrorists have already left Canto Grande!

Abdon Cruzatt Cardenas is among them. He comes from a Shining Path family. Raul, his elder brother, has a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Huamanga. Raul is believed to be a member of the Shining Path's Central Committee. Abdon's sister Claudia died during the liberation of prisoners from the Huamanga prison on 2 March 1982. Zulma, the other sister, is in Canto Grande prison.

Abdon Cruzatt was taken to the Castro Castro prison on 22 April 1987 having been sentenced to 15 years for the murder of Commander Jose Alzamora Bustamante and two policemen. He was also charged with the attempted murder of two other people with the help of Juana Margarita Cosquillo Mercado, who—incidentally—was released before him, on 29 June 1991, and on charges of forgery and robbery. He should be released on 2 April 2002, but he left on 29 January 1992.

The "Technical Evaluation Commission" of the Inpe supported the release on bail of Abdon Cruzatt on the grounds that he had "the ability to be rehabilitated."

Yet it was he—with the cooperation of the AAD—who filed a writ of habeas corpus and a writ of amparo against several of the mass media, as we reported above, charging that the media were seeking "to eliminate prisoners of war."

The media simply informed on the domination that was being exercised—and that is still being exercised—by terrorists, and not just Shining Path terrorists but also MRTA members, in the Castro Castro prison. Abdon Cruzatt was also the spokesman for the Shining Path prisoners, a post that reflects his leadership among his peers.

Like Abdon Cruzatt, many of the Shining Path and MRTA members who were released in 1991 were freed because they committed crimes between 1981 and 1987, a period during which Decree No. 046 —or the "Anti-terrorist Law"—was in force. This law provided for the reduction of prison terms in exchange for good conduct, work, and study.

Subsequent laws, like Law No. 24651 and No. 24953, banned the release of prisoners charged with terrorism. This disposition was reiterated through Decree 635 which, however, is not retroactive.

Consequently, some 170 prisoners who were sentenced between 1981 and 1987 could be released through Decree No. 046... and they could be set free! Among them is Osman Morote Barrionuevo, who was sentenced to 25 years for leading terrorist actions between 1980 and 1988.

Special Prosecutor for Terrorist Crimes Daniel Espichan Tumay said: "Decree 635 effectively punishes terrorists, but it cannot be applied to those who committed crimes between 1981 and 1987. The law that is most favorable for the prisoner should be enforced. In this case, it is Law No 046. A law can only be applied retroactivly if it benefits prisoners. This is what the law sets forth."

He added: "Yet things are quite different if convicted terrorists resort to tricks. When I find out that a resolution that grants freedom has something wrong I immediately file a request for a suspension. I have too much work and too litle logistic support to review every case, even though I work 14 hours a day. I enforce the law, I do not harass terrorists."

Dr. Arturo Zapata Carbajal, the penal judge headquartered in Canto Grande is, however, quite the opposite: he is remarkably fast. He has remained in this post for almost three years. During 1991 he released 219 terrorists.

Some days he works hard: On 16 January he released three; on 31 January he released four; on 1 February, five; on 7 February, four; on 2 March, three; on 9 March, four; and on 3 May, four.

He kept his pace in June, releasing three on 15 June. On 9 July, he released six, on 11 July, three; and on 20 July another three.

On 13 August he released three; on 16 August three; on 7 September, seven; and on 18 October, four. He left the largest number of resolutions for full freedom and for bail until November and December because he knew he would remain in his post only until the end of the year.

He worked so hard that he even worked on 29 June, a holiday, on which he released four terrorists. Incidentally, they were Juana Cosquillo, Pedro Gonzalez Palomino, Juan Huambachano Rueda, and Jorge Zamora Concha.

A high-ranking Dircote official said: "They obtain their freedom so easily that we become frustrated. All our sacrifice seems in vain, but we must continue to work."

The cases involving the most dangerous terrorists who were released over the past 14 months will be reviewed. This work may be handled by the office of the Special Prosecutor for Terrorist Crimes. It seems, however, that it has little chance of success.

Terrorists may reappear, and with a rage that developed inside the prisons in which they were allegedly being rehabilitated.

Venezuela

Attorney General, Intellectual Discuss Corruption

PA2002031992 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Interview with Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom and intellectual Dr. Arturo Uslar Pietri, at the Office of the Attorney General in Caracas by unidentified local reporters; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Escovar] It is a historical event in Venezuela that a man such as Arturo Uslar Pietri has come to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic to voice his concern over one of the most acute problems facing the nation today, corruption. I believe this will mark an important contribution in the struggle against corruption in Venezuela.

There has not been any willingness to fight against corruption. I must admit it was not until now that the president of the Republic expressed any real interest in initiating an action to this effect. I welcome the letter by the president of the Republic, that is, of the ministry of the secretariat instructing me and asking me for cooperation to this effect. I admit I have to ask the president and the executive branch for cooperation, because there have been many obstacles.

This is not the time for pointing these out. There have been many obstacles in the struggle against corruption, and most of the obstacles stem from the political groups and the manner in which a pact of complicity has been created and prevailed in the country for several years.

That is why I believe the current attitude of the president is very positive, and I hope this will be implemented. The first step is for the so-called political establishment of the country to decide to finally end the politicization and interference in the judiciary branch. That is the key as to why many times we do not have effective answers to the cases being studied. I am going to give you a list of the corruption cases pending at the Supreme Court of Justice and at other courts in the country. We are also going to distribute a copy of the letter Dr. Arturo Uslar Pietri sent me on 19 February. You will be given a copy of the statements Uslar Pietri made on 19 February later today.

[Reporter] Based on the experience of the Differential Exchange System [Recadi]—that was truly disastrous for the country—what hopes do you have that the new charges raised by Dr. Arturo Uslar Pietri will lead to imprisonment of corrupt people?

[Escovar] That depends on court action. Dr. Uslar Pietri initiatives or the actions of the Office of the Attorney General will not be enough if the courts do not act. The courts are not taking action, because so far there has been a general paralysis as a result of the interference by the political factors and of the lack of initiative by political leaders in the country.

[Reporter] Do you think it was necessary for this to happen as a result of the foiled coup d'etat to create an awareness among Venezuelans and the main leaders, represented here by Dr. Uslar Pietri, to do something for this democracy that is 34 years old?

[Escovar] I cannot say yet that we have created that awareness, because we first have to see what the government and the various individuals responsible for this situation will do to halt corruption. I only judge according to the facts. I agree with the words, but words are not enough by themselves. It is necessary they be accompanied by facts, and that is what we want to do now. I believe everything happening now is very positive.

[Reporter] What kind of cooperation are you requesting from the government to help you fight against corruption?

[Escovar] First, the government must not interfere in the judiciary branch. There is not a true separation of powers in this country. There are too many ties between the political branch and the judiciary branch. That is the first cooperation I need.

[Reporter] Will the masks be lifted from the corrupt ones?

[Escovar] Let me tell you something about those masks. In the first place, in this list that the press office will distribute you will see some cases. You are not going to wait for Dr. Uslar Pietri to raise charges, because that is not really his job. It is very clear this is not his responsibility or that of any other citizen. That is the responsibility of the state organizations that must operate to comply with their mission and duties.

[Reporter] You have held several public posts, right? Would you know of any specific names and specific cases? Could you do something?

[Escovar] Any cases I am aware of, I know in my ability as Attorney General of the Republic. I cannot give any personal opinions, but only my opinion as Attorney General of the Republic based on the evidence I gather, and also as a result of the contributions provided by the citizens for preparing that evidence.

For example, I request lawyers bring corresponding information on the judicial (?tribes) so the Office of the Attorney General will have the cooperation of all who are aware of certain violations to the law. They should advise us of those cases. The issue of the judicial (?tribes) is one of the most serious cases we have today in Venezuelan justice, and that requires the cooperation of all citizens. The Attorney General's Office cannot do it all on its own. All those whose rights were affected should come forward with these reports and information. We need these people to come here and assume their responsibility, we need the government to assume its responsibility as well as the public prosecutors, and I shall assume mine.

[Reporter] Aside from the letter you received, do you expect to contact the president of the Republic over the next couple of days?

[Escovar] That possibility always exists. I am willing to talk to the president as many times as necessary.

[Reporter] Now we are going to interview Dr. Arturo Uslar Pietri. We would like to know the following: Basically, the Democratic Action [AD] and Copei [Social Christian Party] parties are demanding through press communiques that you release the names of the corrupt people you referred to in your interview. What is your reply to AD and Copei, which are challenging you?

[Uslar Pietri] Calm down. First of all I want to assure you I do not have anyone's name and I would regret very much if Venezuelan journalists, reporters, and political parties did not know who the people I allude to are because even the stones in the streets know who they are. Regarding the meeting...

[Reporter, interrupting] Did the Attorney General's Office have any information about these reports?

[Uslar Pietri] Please wait a second. Please take your proper turn because this interview is very disorderly. Start asking questions and I will reply.

[Reporter] Basically we wanted to know the results...

[Reporter, interrupting] All the newspapers mention corruption. Why are no names given?

[Reporter] Dr. Uslar, what were the results of your meeting with the prosecutor? What additional information have you given that has not appeared in the newspapers?

[Uslar Pietri] Your are not going to receive any information this way. You are asking questions in a disorderly and absurd way. Right now the problem in Venezuela is not a question of listing names because to give a name one needs a case file and I do not have either the services of the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] or the Digepol [General Directorate of Police] to do that. No one has it. That is why the Attorney General's Office, which at this moment is in the hands of an honest man who wants to do good, can accomplish plenty. But if he does not have the cooperation of the state and if the Venezuelan judicial system continues as it is, corrupt from top to bottom, everything else is useless. You see, it is not a question of giving names.

[Reporter] You could open the way and take that first step.

[Uslar Pietri] Who?

[Reporter] Take the first step, supply the names.

[Uslar Pietri] No one can give the names. Listen, what you are saying is the best protection these corrupt people can receive. The corrupt people would like me or Dr. Escovar to name John Doe here, because the next day we would be sued for libel and slander. You are playing into

the hands of the corrupt people. No names should be mentioned. Let the justice system find who they are, let the government find out who they are.

[Reporter] Do you think political parties have exerted pressure on you by challenging you this way?

[Uslar Pietri] The political parties have not challenged me. The people who say that, however, are playing into the hands of the corrupt people, because these people are comfortably at home saying: Let us see if this crazy old man dares mention my name so I can sue him and finish him.

[Reporter] According to your report, the Attorney General's Office had some knowledge of this.

[Uslar Pietri] What country do you live in, miss? If you live in Venezuela you must be familiar with a large catalog the size of a telephone directory with the names of corrupt people, allegedly corrupt people, and people who are doing all sorts of things. If you have not heard of this catalog, then I guess you have just arrived in Venezuela.

[Reporter] Do you really have any hope for justice following the reports you have made?

[Uslar Pietri] It is not a hope I have; I feel there is an urgent need for justice, otherwise, what we know as Venezuelan democracy will sink. I believe this is a good opportunity for the Supreme Court magistrates to make the supreme contribution and resign in masse and open the path that would allow Congress to appoint a Supreme Court of Justice that would offer guarantees of independence.

[Reporter] What do you expect from all this?

[Uslar Pietri] I have no hopes at all unless each and every Venezuelan citizen does as much as he or she can do, take this fight against corruption—the fight for a decent Venezuela, a fight against swindlers—to an end.

[Reporter] In other words, judging by the Venezuelan legal system, justice will not be made in this case?

[Uslar Pietri] It is very difficult under present circumstances.

[Reporter] What should be done, doctor?

[Uslar Pietri] Ask that the courts be quickly cleansed and ask the current Supreme Court of Justice, the cornerstone—I have no personal objections against any magistrate—to resign and leave an open path for a Supreme Court of Justice to be designated that may give a greater guarantee of impartiality.

[Reporter] On 18 February the Attorney General said he did not have the power to investigate the corruption that you report. How then can this be resolved?

[Uslar Pietri] The president of the Republic has just offered the cooperation of the country's corps—the PTJ, the Digepol, the Disip [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services]—these are the organizations that can make enquiries. All people, all Venezuelans who are listening, anything they seriously know should be supplied to the Attorney General's Office.

[Reporter] What makes you believe that a report given by a private citizen will be taken seriously?

[Uslar Pietri] It will not be taken seriously if it is just given over the air, miss. If the case is reported—you need not give any names, just report the facts. Report the facts. At customs point X 10 vehicles were smuggled in last month. You need not give any names.

[Reporter] Will you be making any reports, doctor?

[Uslar Pietri] I will not report anyone. That is not my job.

[Reporter] Facts, just facts.

[Uslar Pietri] No, the facts are there for everyone to see. The Attorney General will take charge and all of you—all citizens—will supply information so these incidents can be investigated and then the guilty, with full names, will be sent to jail.

[Reporter] You tell other people to file reports while you stand back and watch?

[Uslar Pietri] Because I have no way of doing it.

[Reporter] Others do?

[Uslar Pietri] Many people have first hand information because they have seen things happen and they have documents. Additionally, the government, the PTJ, [chuckles] the Disip, and all these people can investigate. The ministry files are available.

[Reporter] You say nothing has been done but the very same corps that need to investigate are also involved?

[Uslar Pietri] Yes miss, but this event had not taken place, which would be historic if you Venezuelans knew how to take advantage of it. Never before had an Attorney General's Office prosecutor taken this attitude. Never had a president of the Republic addressed a prosecutor offering all the government's cooperation. Now, if Venezuelans believe they are watching a bull fight to applaud the bull fighter and do not realize they are inside the ring with the bull, then we are lost.

* Fernandez Criticizes Perez, Offers Alternative

92SM0237A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 13 Jan 92 Section 1 p 12

[Report on speech by Social Christian Party (COPEI) Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez on party's 46th anniversary]

[Text] During his message to the country on the occasion of COPEI's 46th anniversary, Eduardo Fernandez

announced that his party wouuld introduce an Alternative Program containing COPEI's view of the country's economic, political, and social problems.

On behalf of his party, the secretary general of COPEI urged the government to undertake a process of rectifications, claiming that at the present time there is no economic policy or any desire to evaluate the results of the adjustment.

At the same time, Fernandez praised the achievements of the firm and constructive line of opposition maintained by COPEI. He noted that the government has improved social programs and become aware of the problems of Venezuelan children as a result of pressure brought to bear by his party.

The following is the text of the message he delivered on the 46th anniversary of the Social Christian Party, COPEI.

As we reached the half century mark, the Social Christian Party, COPEI, confirmed its commitment to the people. Venezuela found in COPEI a party that would lead the social struggle, fight for children and those living in poverty and wretchedness, and work to improve the quality of life for all Venezuelan families. COPEI is the champion of the fight "for social justice in a better Venezuela." COPEI is the useful party.

As it celebrates the 46th anniversary of its founding, COPEI sends a message of optimism and hope to the country. That message is an appeal for rational and realistic optimism. We are aware that the current situation is a delicate and not very heartening one. It therefore requires a serious process of reflection on the part of all organized sectors of national life and, in general, all inhabitants of the country. From this examination of conscience must emerge the ideas, attitudes, and concrete proposals for overcoming malaise, pessimism, and unrest.

We are political activists and leaders and proud of it. For us, politics means serving the common good through social justice. COPEI is the party of the democratic alternative, ready and prepared to exercise power on behalf of the greatest number. It cannot be pessimistic or a confused voice in a chorus of despair. COPEI has faith in the country and its democratic institutions, which can be perfected by the broadest possible organized participation of the people.

COPEI Promotes Rectifications

Our critical awareness reveals a need to promote rectifications in this period of difficulties accentuated by the effects of a policy of "adjustments" implemented by the current government. However, the government failed, in order to promote it, to take the basic precaution of laying adequate political groundwork or building a solid social base to support it. As a result, adverse reactions have come one after the other. Social protest is widespread and is accompanied by concern. Constant demonstrations in the streets, put down with extreme and reprehensible harshness, are very disturbing symptoms whose causes and effects must be analyzed. We cannot continue to allow more children to die of hunger and more Venezuelan students to die in the streets in protests which the government refuses to heed.

Given this panorama, it is COPEI's historic duty to propose alternatives to the country, open up new horizons, offer solutions, and once again rouse the hopes of Venezuelans, their self-confidence, and confidence in the actual possibility of building a better future together.

COPEI Rejects Anti-Party Strategy

COPEI confirms its commitment to freedom, democracy, and social justice. The Venezuelan people are and will continue to be a nation of free men and women. As a political organization, COPEI is fighting and will continue to fight the distorted, irresponsible campaign against parties. There would seem to be a desire to replace them with economic and social pressure groups. We know there are reasons for dissatisfaction and protest. At the same time, we lay claim to the enforcement of democratic paths leading to rectification through consultation and consensus, without the use of violence.

We shall not allow ourselves to be indiscriminately included or described in groups. Each one must answer for his own action.

Government Has No Economic Policy

The government's extemporaneous, incoherent application of the "package of adjustments" bears a great deal of responsibility for the emergence of this disturbing picture. What began as a period of growth and social well-being soon developed—due to the absence of coherence and of any medium- and long-range vision—into a heavy burden that denies most Venezuelans of any future while enriching an extremely small majority. The adjustment, which by definition should be something temporary in order to pave the way for a coherent economic policy with social substance, now tends to become permanent. The government currently has no economic policy and is not willing to evaluate the results of the adjustment. Consequently, no rectifications should be expected. It does not even have the backing of businessmen, its own party or, naturally, the vast majority of all Venezuelans. This has a negative effect on the political situation.

Alternative Program

We should like to interpret the president's appeal for alternatives to his "economic package" as a sincere desire for openness and dialogue. We are fully prepared to submit an Alternative Proposal to the chief of state. It should include a revision of monetary and fiscal policy in order to make it harmonious with an effective economic policy. We must design an income policy that will halt the dramatic drop in the purchasing power of

Venezuelans, without resorting to compulsive wage increases. We must outline an industrial reconversion plan that will save our industrial plant from the negative effects of a necessary but improvised tariff reduction and reformulate social policy to make spending more efficient, while respecting the dignity of those deserving of government assistance.

We are at the president's disposal in order to discuss our alternative proposal, convinced that there no longer exists any economic policy. The one that did exist wore out and it is time to think about a post-package policy, a real economic policy aimed at achieving progress for the vast majority of the people.

Progress and Hunger

The biggest problems and greatest challenges are social. The statistics paint a dramatic picture. Three-fourths of our people live in relative and critical poverty and the average Venezuelan today eats 40 percent less than he did 10 years ago, with children in particular suffering the worst effects. Every day, a Venezuelan child starves to death.

A process of rectification is essential. The president is the visible head of the country. The chief of state holds immense power and fundamental decisions must therefore come from him.

President Indifferent to Problems

Dialogue has disappeared from government policy. The president hears but pays no heed and, what is even more serious, excludes without discussion options that could help overcome problems. The government seems to be wallowing in indifference, removed from everything that happens and failing to perceive events in their proper dimension. The Cabinet appears confused, divided, and perplexed by the country's situation. Under such conditions, there can be no coordination for the nation or the government itself.

Venezuela is wallowing in confusion and the people want a clear view of the road to the future. We have an obligation to overcome difficulties, resolve contradictions, curb the tendency toward anarchy and the denial of everything, and defeat those who would heighten skepticism and surrender to aimless pessimism. No effort must be overlooked in striving for possible understanding. If, in our role of marking the path, we proceed with transparency, our task of opposition is elevated even further.

There must be a convergence of honest proposals in order to fight public and private corruption with energy and sincerity. One has but to observe to affirm that never before in any period of our history has there been such a wave of administrative scandals that fairly cry out for exemplary sanctions meted out by a Judicial Branch of impeccable ethical standards and unquestionable rectitude and strength in its actions, one that demands respect for its independence when it comes time to render judgments. No longer can Venezuela go on being depicted as a country where one can commit all manner of outrages and where crime goes unpunished.

Firm, Constructive Opposition

We of COPEI have promoted important measures implying a new way of viewing opposition based on acting for the well-being of the country rather than our own interest or political bias. We have initiated, promoted, strengthened, and even inspired processes that should have had their origins and greatest encouragement in the Executive Branch and the party that sustains it. One example of these are the social programs, privatization, and tax reform. We have rejected work stoppages as a means of protest and also condemned compulsive wage increases, taking a sincere attitude in keeping with our promotion of the modernization of the Venezuelan economy. In addition, we have contributed positive, non-obstructionist criticism of such important processes as the refinancing of the debt and budget policy. From the opposition, we are beginning to lay the foundations for the social market economy.

In 1991, COPEI stayed at the people's side, at the side of the vast majorities that suffer the effects of a serious economic situation, a deteriorating standard of living, insecurity, and poor public services. We have waged an all-out fight for the neediest segments of our population, children, the elderly, the middle class, and the poor. The situation created by the current government must change as the result of an alternative program that promotes a social market economy generating prosperity, development, and social justice. Let us recall that the best social policy is a good economic policy.

COPEI At People's Side

COPEI is at the people's side and has demonstrated it with its firm and positive line of opposition. We have managed to make the government aware of the country's grave social situation, gain improvement in social programs, and attract more attention to our children. To that effect, we have proposed a 10-year national agreement guaranteeing food, health, and education for all Venezuelan children.

We shall remain in the fight, providing the country with concrete alternatives in order to take a different direction. COPEI has shown it is a useful party.

National Harmony

We are nevertheless aware that this is not enough. In order to be able to generate collective self-esteem, the political country and civil society must march in step and in a direction accepted by the decisive majority. That is the national consensus. Democratic policy must secure social peace through a discussion of its future and by goals and objectives that unite the majority of the people in a struggle to achieve well-being and maintain co-existence without getting involved in petty battles that can only impede national progress. Only in this way

shall we be able to create a culture of national harmony, meaning unity of will for the purpose of reaching agreement and solving problems.

Personal and Social Security

With every passing day, COPEI feels more committed to the fight to solve social problems. The first of these is personal security, without which there is no real right to life, the supreme natural right of every human being. We make a contribution to political stability when we place emphasis on social problems, for it is real flesh-and-blood people who are the central reason for our struggle and the pillar of the system of democratic freedoms.

In order to change this state of affairs, people must overcome abstentionist propaganda and the burden of disillusionment generated by government incompetency. Every citizen has the right and moral duty to vote responsibly in the coming elections. The power of each individual assumes huge proportions by voting. Only if we use that power properly shall we make the vigorous and implacable weight of the people's sanction felt. Those who have defrauded the people's trust cannot honestly ask to continue in public office.

COPEI the Hope of the People

COPEI engages in such reflections because it believes that politics is not just emotion, but reason as well. It is a conception of history and a vision of the future. Politics is not solely and not even principally condemnation, but above all, the proposal of viable solutions. Consequently, any discussion of the future or debate about tomorrow is a discussion and debate on the consequences of decisions and actions that must be taken based on the well-being of all.

We repeat our appeal to the president, to political parties, workers and businessmen, teachers and students, churches, all organized communities, Venezuelans in general, to embark upon a process of rectification and national unity in order to restore the majesty of the state, win back the optimism that has always characterized our people, and work together for the historic objective of being a civilized, developed country for all and for the welfare of all.

COPEI is the hope of the people. Our message in this hour of difficulty is a message of unity and change. We Venezuelans are tired of so much pessimism and defeatism. COPEI wants to restore our people's their right to hope. There are solutions. There are alternatives and COPEI is fighting for them. We are convinced that many are with us in this fight for a better country and their numbers will continue to grow day by day. We are asking for your support and participation. Let this new year and this anniversary of COPEI mark the beginning of a return of hope to the hearts of all Venezuelans. COPEI is with each and every one of you.

* Former PDVSA President Criticizes Policies

92SM0236A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 24 Jan 92 Section 2 p 4

[Interview with former Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. President Juan Chacin Guzman by C.R. Chavez at his private office; date not given]

[Text] Although there is no denying the success of the petroleum and petrochemicals industry during the last fiscal year, the industry's financial situation is "very bad" because it is straining under the overwhelming burden of government fiscal pressure.

These opinions were expressed by geologist Juan Chacin Guzman, who was president of Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. (PDVSA) until February 1990, when he turned over the job to attorney Andres Sosa Pietri. Chacin presided over PDVSA for four years, and he was responsible for much of the great impetus that was given to the Venezuelan oil industry between 1986 and 1990, both internally and externally.

Today, Chacin Guzman is enjoying his retirement; he is head of an interesting program jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAC) and PDVSA to conduct research on cattle diseases, especially in the eastern part of the country.

We went to his private office to interview him for our series of articles taking a critical look at the Venezuelan oil industry.

Before beginning our conversation, which was based on a series of previously submitted questions, Chacin addressed an issue that concerns him greatly: PDVSA's indebtedness.

"For the first time in its history, PDVSA is in debt both domestically and abroad. As I understand it, with the authorization of a $3.15 billion debt this year, PDVSA will finish 1992 owing just over $5 billion abroad and more than 50 billion bolivares in Venezuela. In this regard, I would like to state in a responsible manner that PDVSA cannot pay this debt under the fiscal system that the government is applying to it at present. PDVSA is acting on the basis of a promise that the 20-percent export tariff will be phased out. I doubt, however, that the Treasury will go along with that phase-out without first getting a guarantee that those revenues will be replaced with revenues of similar quantity and timing."

Another comment made by Chacin was this: "We are exporting crude oil and derivatives at an average price of $13.50 per barrel, which means that we are selling oil for $5.50 less than the $19.00 figure that was used in the budget to estimate oil revenues and transfers to the Treasury."

"I recall," added Chacin, "the enviable financial health that PDVSA enjoyed until September 1982, when the Central Bank made a move the consequences of which we are suffering today: It took more than $6 billion away

from PDVSA, the sum total of its reserves in other countries, to be used for investment programs over time. That measure placed PDVSA in a position of permanent financial vulnerability, to the extent that its current cash flow (for all of 1992) is less than half the investment budget (333 billion bolivares) approved by the assembly for 1992."

[Chavez] Do you think PDVSA should grow to the size of Exxon or Shell?

[Chacin] We must grow as much as our resources (human and material, and of course including financial resources) will allow, as long as the market is favorable.

[Chavez] What are the good and bad points of the oil policy?

[Chacin] What policy? I do not know what it is. Aside from telling the industry what its production volumes must be and what prices it must set for fuel on the domestic market, I do not see any policy.

[Chavez] What about OPEC? Do you think we should stay or go?

[Chacin] For many years now, OPEC has been a kind of club of oil-producing countries that meets a couple of times a year to make decisions on prices and production volume that everyone ignores. We have known for some time that OPEC is incapable of controlling prices. It was unable to prevent the escalation of prices in 1979, or the sharp drop in prices in 1986. In other words, it has been unable to stabilize the oil market. This is not surprising, given that in a world of free trade it does not matter whether we are members of OPEC or not. It would not be a big problem for the country. What is a big problem is the current situation.

[Chavez] How healthy or risky is the strategy of PDVSA indebtedness?

[Chacin] As I have said before, I think this policy is extremely riskly. If PDVSA goes into debt to the full extent of the authorization issued by the assembly last December, by the end of the year it will owe over $5 billion (taking into account the balances for 1990 and 1991 in that regard) if it does not have a fiscal mechanism that will guarantee it enough cash flow to pay principal and interest, that is, for the annual debt service. Moreover, given the current tax system, it will be impossible for the oil industry to meet the debt service and maintain sufficient cash flow. That cash flow will reach just 150 billion bolivares, and investment was projected at well over 300 billion bolivares for 1992.

Chacin admits that the authorization of $3.15 billion in debts for PDVSA this year is part of the investment budget of 333 billion bolivares, because PDVSA's earnings, estimated at 130 billion bolivares in 1992, will not be enough to meet the requirements of the plan.

[Chavez] What proportion of the oil and petrochemical complex should be transferred to the private sector, partially or totally?

[Chacin] In the specific case of the petrochemical sector, I agree that the private sector should hold even more than 50 percent of the stock in the companies of this sector. Today nearly all the petrochemical subsidiaries of the Petrochemical Company of Venezuela (Pequiven) or those associated with it are in the private sector. As for petroleum, it would be truly regrettable to turn over part of such a profitable business to the private sector. Unfortunately, Congress legislated erroneously, in our opinion, when it passed the Income Tax Law last year in such a way as to force the petroleum industry to form partnerships in highly profitable projects. The law levies a 30-percent tax on these partnership projects, whereas if PDVSA undertakes a project on its own, the tax is 67.5 percent.

[Chavez] Is it a good idea to continue with the San Jose Pact, and with Cuba as well?

[Chacin] The San Jose Accord poses no problem to the oil industry itself. PDVSA sells oil to the Central American and Caribbean countries in the pact at market prices. The problem—if there is one—is for the Venezuelan Investment Fund, which finances 20 percent of the per-barrel price over five years.

[Chavez] Should we move further into internationalization, even into Eastern Europe?

[Chacin] Definitely; we should go as far as our growth capacity allows, depending, of course, on our ability to grow without trauma. Internationalization, or globalization, as they call it now, simply means assuring Venezuela of a certain volume of oil sales. With PDVSA participation in Germany's Ruhr Oel, I think Eastern Europe will turn into a natural market for that company, in which PDVSA holds a 50-percent share.

In Juan Chacin's view, "the only viable way I can see to turn Venezuela into a mixed and progressive model is to consolidate it as a real oil-producing country."

[Chavez] Should we progress more rapidly on orimulsion, and even on the production of synthetic crudes?

[Chacin] Orimulsion is one thing and the production of synthetic crudes is another. As we know, orimulsion is an emulsion of bitumen in water that can be burned directly in industrial burners to generate electricity. There is a market that is being expanded there, and we should not lose out. As for the production of synthetic crudes, that would involve refining the extra-heavy crude from the Belt area in very high-conversion refineries, which would require a tremendous investment. At some point Venezuela will have to undertake those projects, given the magnitude of extra-heavy crude reserves we have in the Belt (267 billion barrels).

[Chavez] How far could the IPPCN [National Petroleum, Petrochemical, and Coal Industry] get with a tax rate of 82 percent, without decapitalization?

[Chacin] The oil industry cannot continue paying 82 percent of its earnings to the National Treasury, because this tax does not allow it to generate enough cash flow to carry out its investments, much less pay its annual debt service. As we know, the 82 percent comes from the application of the 20 percent export tariff that is totally lacking in any justification, legal or otherwise. The only reason this has been maintained is to satisfy the voracious appetite of the Treasury, which is forcing PDVSA to go into debt so that it will indirectly finance the Treasury. It should be recalled that the same thing happened to Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) in Mexico; that company went into debt to cover the fiscal needs of the Mexican Government.

[Chavez] Do you think there is politicization or partisan influence on the IPPCN?

[Chacin] I do not think the parties have any direct or indirect influence on the petroleum industry. The way part of the PDVSA board of directors was structured in March 1990, however, suggests that some directors were appointed not because of their excellence, but rather because of their friendship with the minister or the president of the republic. This is not a good idea, and it could be a sign of the politicization of the cadres in the industry. A company the size of PDVSA should be managed by the best professionals available.

[Chavez] What do you think of the industry's performance over the past year?

[Chacin] From the operational standpoint, excellent, with regard to the increase in proved reserves, production, refined volumes, exported volumes, etc. But from the financial point of view, very bad; PDVSA did not have a big enough cash flow to carry out its normal operations and had to go into debt for the first time, abroad and in Venezuela, to meet its obligations.

[Chavez] Should Sosa Pietri's replacement come from within the industry, or from outside as well?

[Chacin] I have always said, and I will continue to say, that the president of PDVSA, who is both chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer of the company, should be not only a manager with excellent credentials, but also an individual who has a thorough knowledge of the oil business. If such a man can be found outside the industry, let him come from there. Because I think what matters is not where the man comes from, but his professional qualifications and experience in this business, which is absolutely essential. And not many people have these qualifications.

[Chavez] What is your perspective on the international oil market and PDVSA's role in it?

[Chacin] I think the international oil market will continue to be very competitive. Over the next few years, oil supplies will remain plentiful. Because of its geographical location, its presence on the consumer markets, and our record as a reliable supplier, our oil has excellent chances for not only maintaining its presence, but improving its position in those markets. We have the means, and we even have comparative advantages.